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Paris withdraws aircraft carrier

French presence in Gulf to continue

By Fahima Ahmed

FRENCH Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement yesterday said that the reduction of the French naval task force in the Indian Ocean does not mean the end of French presence in the Gulf region.

The French Defence Ministry said in Paris yesterday it was withdrawing the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, two support ships, and one minesweeper from its Indian Ocean fleet which covers the Gulf.

"The reduction does not mean an end to French presence in the region. We will maintain our naval presence in the Gulf," Chevenement said before leaving Kuwait yesterday after a two-day visit.

Decision

Chevenement had informed HH the Amir about the French decision to cut back its naval force. The French minister called on the Amir on Saturday to deliver a message from French President Francois Mitterrand, inviting the Amir to visit France.

The Amir, who is expected to go to Paris on a private visit this month, accepted the official invitation to visit France next year, Chevenement said.

France is the first Western power to order one of the largest cutbacks of its naval fleet in the once-embattled waterway. The departure of the four ships will cut the French naval force in the Gulf region from 11 to seven.

The Clemenceau was ordered to return to Toulon.

Chevenement yesterday visited two French frigates, the



Chevenement

Georges Leygues, now in Kuwaiti waters, and the Pegasus, one of the frigates in the Gulf.

"Foreign naval presence is (needed) to protect navigation in the waterway," he said.

Asked if France favoured the presence of an international naval force in the Gulf, Chevenement said: "Yes, provided it is supervised by the United Nations, as there is scope for co-operation between nations."

Chevenement said it was vital to clear the Gulf of mines and protect shipping. He called on the international community to pool efforts to clear the Gulf waterway of mines.

"It is vital to clear the Gulf waterway though it (mine-sweeping) is a difficult task and considerable work is involved. An initiative must be taken by the international community to help clear the waterway of mines," he emphasised.

"We are interested to see peace and stability in the region," he stressed.

Chevenement parried questions on reported French proposal to supply Mirage 2000 multi-role fighter planes and other weapons to Kuwait. But he indicated France's willingness to provide weapons and aircraft if approached.

Weapons

"There is the possibility of co-operating not only in (providing) aircraft but other weapons, and in other fields, as well," he said.

Kuwait's Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, who was at the airport to see off the French minister, indicated Kuwait's willingness to diversify its weapons sources.

"Kuwait will meet its need for various equipment and other weapons and we are studying several proposals," Sheikh Nawaf said.

Though he did not elaborate

(Continued on Page 2)

GCC ministers meet to map post-war strategy

Saudis call for new spirit of peace

RIYADH, Sept 4, (Agencies): Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said today that Iran's turn to peace with Iraq was "a crucial and significant" development, but stressed that a "new spirit that respects good neighbourly ties" was needed in the Gulf.

The prince, opening a ministerial council meeting of the six-member GCC, welcomed the peace talks between Iran and Iraq under United Nations auspices in Geneva.

But he cautioned Iran that ending the nearly eight-year-old Gulf war "is not sufficient in itself, unless backed by a new spirit that respects good neighbourly ties and rejects aggression, avoids sabotage and interference in the internal affairs of neighbours and seeks unity of Muslims and directing efforts to the good of Islam."

Expected

The GCC session, attended by the foreign ministers of the council's member states, was expected to last two days.

The ministers will seek ways to help break the deadlock peace talks in Geneva and map out a post-war strategy for the region.

It was the first meeting by the alliance since Iran unexpectedly announced on July 18 its unconditional acceptance of Resolution 598, which called for a ceasefire in the war. The truce took hold on Aug 20.

The ministers arriving for the meeting at the GCC headquarters in the Saudi capital, stressed

Ensure

He said the countries of the Gulf looked forward to the belligerents "reaching a formula that would guarantee an end to their conflict and would achieve an honourable peace and a just settlement of all the problems that led to armed conflict between them."

Prince Saud expressed "support and consolidation" for the efforts of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to reach a formula that would ensure "lasting and comprehensive" peace on the basis of Security Council



Sheikh Sabah

they will focus on how to consolidate the peace negotiations and prepare for co-operation between Gulf states in the post-war era.

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Kuwait Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, noted that article 8 of Resolution 598

(Continued on Page 4)

11 crewmen injured

UK naval ship damaged in collision in Gulf

ABU DHABI, Sept 4, (Agencies): The British destroyer Southampton docked in Fujairah port in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) today after being involved in a collision with a merchant ship which it was escorting into the Gulf.

Officials at Fujairah port said the 3,560-tonne warship would remain in harbour for a few days for inspection after the accident 10 miles off the coast of Oman last night.

The collision with the 34,477-tonne British container vessel Tor Bay injured 11 sailors on the Southampton, three of whom suffered broken bones.

A Royal Navy spokesman said the Southampton, carrying a crew of 280, was holed in the port side.

He declined to describe how the collision occurred but said an investigation would be carried out.

Position

Shipping sources said the ships probably collided while manoeuvring into position for the destroyer to lead the Tor Bay through the narrow Strait of Hormuz into the Gulf.

The Southampton is part of a British task force which has been protecting British-flagged merchant vessels against Iranian attack during the Gulf war.

The Tor Bay's owners, P and O, said one ballast tank near the bow was holed. The ship was continuing to Dubai from Singapore. It will be repaired at the Dubai drydock.

On arrival at Fujairah, the sailors with broken bones were moved to the local government hospital. One witness at the port said the Southampton was "damaged extensively.... (There's) a big gash on its port side, bigger than the size of a car."

Accidents

British naval sources in Oman noted that this was not the first time that the Southampton has been involved in such accidents.

"That destroyer has a history of bouncing off ships," said one of the sources, also describing it as "an unlucky ship." The one example he could immediately recall was that of the vessel hitting a buoy off Portland some time ago. He did not remember the date.

Iraq sends merchant ship into Gulf

BAGHDAD, Sept 4, (Reuters): Iraq today sent a merchant ship into the Gulf in an apparent challenge to Iran's self-declared right to search vessels despite the ceasefire in their eight-year war.

The Iraqi ship K. Sawla sailed from Umm Qasr port south of Basra to the Mediterranean at 9:15 am (0515 GMT), the official Iraqi News Agency

(INA) said, adding that the vessel was carrying 3,000 tonnes of fertiliser.

Iraq's policy of continuing to intercept Iraqi-bound war cargoes in the Gulf is one of the issues over which Geneva peace talks have been stalled since they began 10 days ago.

Iraq says that under the terms

of the UN-mediated ceasefire which went into effect on Aug 20 Iran should stop searching Gulf shipping.

The 3,525-tonne Khawla was one of two Iraqi ships which tested Iranian adherence to the ceasefire by sailing into the Gulf as soon as the cessation of hostilities took effect.

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فرائض کی جگہ سے
واپس بلانے کا اعلان
سوان میں ۸ ہزار افراد
کی ہلاکت
بھارت میں سیلاب کی
صورتحال ابتر ہو گئی
ریاض میں قطیف کوئلہ کا
اجلاس
کراچی یونیورسٹی کے طلباء
میں تصادم
آسٹریلیا کی کرکٹ ٹیم
لاہور پہنچی
لاہور ناشر اور یو سفیات

WEATHER

FAIR, summer weather with light variable winds. Temperature will be around normal with light to moderate, south easterly wind.

State of sea: slight to moderate

High water: 5:00 am and 9:00 pm

Low water: 2:00 pm

Sunrise: 5:27 am

Sunset: 6:06 pm

Maximum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 43°C 109°F

Abu Dhabi: 41°C 106°F

Falaka: 40°C 104°F

Maximum temperature expected:

Kuwait: 43°C 109°F

Abu Dhabi: 41°C 106°F

Falaka: 40°C 104°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 79 per cent

Abu Dhabi: 39 per cent

Falaka: 42 per cent

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 50 per cent

Abu Dhabi: 40 per cent

Falaka: 43 per cent

Egypt, Jordan to support PLO

CAIRO, Sept 4, (Reuters): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein said today they were ready to offer the PLO their support to help solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We regularly exchange views to see what will come after the PLO takes the matter into its own hands," Mubarak told reporters at Alexandria's Nuzha airport.

The two leaders flew to Cairo, where Mubarak and Egyptian ministers bid farewell to Hussein at the end of a four-day visit.

Discussed

Children gave Hussein and Queen Noor flower bouquets and a band played the national anthems of Egypt and Jordan. Airport officials said they were flying to London.

Mubarak said he discussed with the King "how we can assist the PLO, and how it will move to achieve a solution for this cause, which is of interest to all of us..."

Both leaders support a PLO proposal to form a provisional government. They have urged the Palestinians to form a moderate body that would win wider world approval, especially from Washington.

King Hussein told reporters: "We are waiting for the Palestinians to solidify their position so that we may offer them support."

He said he hoped the Iran-Iraq ceasefire would allow greater efforts to be made toward solving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We hope the ceasefire will lead to a durable peace in the region so that the light can be focussed on the Palestinian cause, which has been put in the hands of its owners," said Hussein.

The visit by the King to Egypt was the first since Jordan broke administrative and legal links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank on July 31.

The move left the PLO to fill the vacuum.

Peres wants peace with Palestinians

LONDON, Sept 4, (Agencies): Israeli politician Shimon Peres was quoted today as saying he would not join another national unity coalition which rejected a compromise peace with the Arabs.

"We shall not join in any government that will say no to the peace process," Peres was reported as telling The Observer, the liberal London weekly.

His statement "seemed to rule out a continuation" of the coalition between his Labour Party and the right-wing Likud which has ruled Israel for the past four years, said the newspaper which interviewed Peres in Jerusalem last week.



Peres

Peres, a former prime minister, is his party's candidate for the post again in the Nov 1 general elections.

The report quoted Peres as saying he wants discussions with Palestinians willing to recognise the 1947 UN Security Council Resolution 242 which called for withdrawal from occupied territory and respect for Israel's right to live within secure borders.

Peres said his party is ready to trade territory for peace and accept a timetable for the transition from interim to permanent settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

The Observer quoted Peres as saying: "I'm saying this time it's not a choice between parties, it's a choice between destinies. What sort of Israel will it be in the future?"

Israeli Foreign Ministry sources

said today that its director-general Avraham Tamir will probably not be disciplined for saying that the PLO represents all Palestinians.

Remark

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called for Avraham Tamir to be sacked after he made the remark to a Jewish group in the United States last week.

"I don't believe anything will happen to him," one Foreign Ministry source said. He dismissed Shamir's reaction as political campaigning prior to general elections in November.

Officially, the ministry has said that Tamir's remark did not conflict with government policy. But officials said privately that it had embarrassed Peres and was badly timed before the election.

UK, Syria to resume ties

SHARJAH, Sept 4, (KUNA): Britain and Syria have agreed to resume diplomatic relations and settle all problems between the two countries, according to a report published today.

The daily Al Khaleej quoted reliable British sources in London as saying that the resumption of ties and appointment of ambassadors will take place within two weeks.

The two countries held secret contacts during the past three months, the sources added.

A senior Arab official close to both Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and British Premier Margaret Thatcher paved the way for these contacts, the sources said.

Two other senior GCC officials followed up the issue during their separate visits to Britain early this year and in July, the sources added.

Britain severed diplomatic ties with Syria in Oct 1986 and halted Syrian Airlines' flights to London and Syria took similar measures against Britain.

8,000 dead in Sudanese famine

KHARTOUM, Sept 4, (Reuters): A senior Sudanese Army officer said today scores of people were dying of hunger every day in an isolated southwestern town and a Khartoum newspaper reported 8,000 people had died there so far.

Relief officials said hundreds of destitute people from several famine-hit southern districts were trekking north in search of food in towns which had little relief to offer.

They said more than 30 people a day were dying in one such town, Al Meiram, to which refugees were flocking from the neighbouring southwestern province of Bahr Al Ghazal.

"They arrive with barely any clothes on, no cattle and only water gourds," said one relief official after a visit to Al Meiram in the province of southern Kordofan.

Hunger

The military commander of Bahr Al Ghazal, Major-General Abugroun Abdullah Abugroun, was quoted as saying the same number of people died of hunger in the province's town of Aweil every day as were killed in northern Sudan by floods last month.

"The state is concerned with the north and ignores the south," he told today's edition of the weekly Sawt Al Sharia.

"The fuss over the death of 64 people in the north as a result of the latest disaster proves it," he said, referring to the official death toll in floods in Khartoum.

"A similar number dies of hunger every day in Aweil and nobody is doing anything about it," he said.

The independent Khartoum daily Al Ayam quoted official reports as saying 8,000 people had died in Aweil, without giving a time period. Official comment on the report was not immediately available.

The paper said floods had cut off the town, which a World Food Programme official in Rome said last week was almost totally without food because of security problems, bad roads and railways.

Relief officials said several international aid agencies were trying to arrange reconnaissance flights over Aweil to assess conditions.

Refugees

They were also trying to organise a food airlift for Al Meiram, where about 30,000 refugees are camped.

The officials said the number of malnourished deaths among the refugees had jumped dramatically from the average of 30 a day in June and July.

(Continued on Page 2)

Bangladeshis face starvation, disease

DHAKA, Sept 4, (Agencies): An estimated 20 million people were living on raw food and were drinking flood waters across Bangladesh as the death toll in monsoon floods reached 882 today, officials and news reports said.

"Shortage of medicine, cooked food and drinking water is causing untold misery to millions of marooned people," said an official at the Relief Ministry in Dhaka.

Relief officials were unable to reach many flood battered interior areas where a large number of people were feared trapped with meagre or no food and potable water, officials from four areas said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they did not have enough boats to reach the areas.

Appeals

The officials estimated that 20 million people were marooned in 50 of the country's 64 districts that were battered by the current floods. No drinking water was available as hand pumps in the area had submerged.

The Bangladesh government issued fresh appeals for boats, helicopters and three million tons of food to combat a deluge that has affected an estimated 30 million people.

The daily Sangbad said 40 people died across the country

yesterday, taking the total death toll in the current monsoon floods that began in June to at least 882. The government toll, considered understated, stood at 400.

In Dhaka, a city of six million people, gasoline was scarce and several gas stations closed their pumps and hung "no gas" signboards.

"Supply of petrol has been cut off due to breakdown of communication system between Dhaka and the port city of Chittagong," said one station owner, Giasuddin Ahmed. "Unless to get fresh supplies the pumps will remain closed." Rains battered Dhaka today, triggering panic among the residents.

An estimated half a million people have taken shelter in the capital from adjoining low-lying areas. Their presence and uncertainties over the floods caused prices of goods to rise in the city. Rice, a staple, has shot up 40 per cent.

Meanwhile, Dhaka remained cut off for the third day today as more areas of the runways at the international airport were submerged.

Japan, responding to Bangladesh's appeal for international aid, pledged \$13 million of "interim" flood relief today, the official BSS news agency said.

(Continued on Page 2)

Kuwait helps flood-hit countries

THE Kuwaiti cabinet yesterday decided to send emergency food aid to Bangladesh, reeling under catastrophic floods.

The decision was taken following the concern shown by HH the Amir over the situation in Bangladesh.

Kuwait has already sent 35 plane-loads of relief material — food, medicine and tents — to flood-stricken Sudan. A ship with another 30,000 tons of material is on its way to Sudan.

Plane fire

FARNBOROUGH, England, Sept 4, (Reuters): The engine of a Soviet freight plane caught fire on takeoff as Britain's Farnborough air show opened today.

Eyewitnesses saw flames coming from the back of the Antonov 124 as it began takeoff, a spokesman said.

The plane was carrying 124 tons of cargo, a spokesman said.

No recess in Gulf peace talks

UN mediator proposes compromise formula

GENEVA, Sept 4, (Reuters): United Nations mediator Jan Eliasson said today he planned no recess in the Iran-Iraq peace talks despite the distrust both sides say has prevented them from making progress.

The Swedish envoy, chosen on Thursday by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to take over Gulf mediation from him, said it was important to work hard to try to get agreement on small issues in order to build confidence.

"We are now in this intensive working phase and I of course hope for and expect progress on the issues that we discuss," he told a news conference. "There is no recess planned for the time being."

He said he had also proposed a new compromise formula.

The two sides are so divided that the UN has not convened a face-to-face meeting since the second day of the talks, on Aug 26.

Modest

Foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement, to which both Iran and Iraq belong, meet this week in Nicosia and it was not clear if the Iraqi and Iranian ministers plan to attend. Each is his country's chief peace negotiator at the Geneva talks.

Eliasson said negotiations were much easier now than in 1986 when he visited Iran and Iraq during the fighting to help the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme's search for peace.

"I am not discouraged. You have to have a modest appreciation of progress," he said.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz met Eliasson for 75 minutes last evening and Iranian Foreign

Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met the Swede for 2-1/2 hours in talks that extended into this morning.

Eliasson said he and his team were digesting the detailed information from those talks and he hoped late today to hold informal meetings with lower-level delegations.

Aziz told reporters after his session yesterday the negotiations had not advanced past square one since they began on Aug 25.

Extension

They are stuck on the question of a ceasefire and a withdrawal of troops, the first point of UN Security Council Resolution 598, the basis for the talks.

A ceasefire took hold on Aug 20, but Iraq insists that as an extension of that Iran must agree to stop searching its ships in the Gulf.

It also demands Tehran agree to a survey and subsequent clearing of the Shatt Al Arab, the waterway between them which is Iraq's main outlet to the Gulf.

Baghdad is plainly worried that the negotiations could drag on for months if not years, thereby delaying the use of the Shatt, the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Victory

Iran has said Iraq must agree to withdraw its troops before it will stop searching ships and says now is not the time to discuss such a sensitive issue as an estuary over which they have clashed for centuries.

Prayers of thanks for victory boomed from Iraqi minarets today as the country marked what it regards as the eighth anniversary of its war with Iran.

Committee formed to review defamation bill

Rajiv bows to public pressure

NEW DELHI, Sept. 4, (UPI): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi today set up a high-level committee to review a defamation bill that sparked a nationwide protest and postponed the introduction of the measure in the upper house of the Parliament.

The decision to defer the controversial bill and refer it to a ministerial committee was announced by Rajiv during a speech he gave to officials of his ruling Congress (I) Party.

It follows a nationwide protest by opposition parties, journalists, lawyers and civil right groups, who allege the measure's intent was to censor the press and violate the constitutional guarantee of free speech.

Curtail
"The government never wanted to curtail the freedom of the press, this freedom is one of the pillars of democracy," Rajiv said during the speech.

"If freedom of the press is jeopardized in any way our democracy will be weakened...at no point of time we wanted to lessen this freedom. There is no question of reducing this freedom," the Indian leader said of charges his government wanted to curtail press freedom.

The proposed bill would subject a person to criminal charges for false statements that adversely affect the reputation of a person or association.

The bill attracted widespread criticism because it would force defendants to prove the veracity

of their statements, would provide for secret trials and would allow charges to be filed anywhere in India, irrespective of where the law was violated.

Convictions would bring up to five years in jail.

The media could be prosecuted for reporting statements that violated the law, a provision opponents claim would prohibit the publication of any anti-government charges by opposition parties.

Government agencies and its officials would be exempt from the proposed law.

The National Press Co-ordination Committee in a statement said it would stage a demonstration and nationwide newspaper strike tomorrow.

The committee will fight for the withdrawal of the bill, which the statement said would introduce censorship.

Rajiv said during the meeting with his party officials that Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao will head the "high-powered" committee, whose members include Information and Broadcasting Minister H.K.L. Bhagat and several senior cabinet ministers including Home, Finance and Law.

The committee would seek opinion from journalists and other groups and initiate steps to remove fears about freedom of the press, Rajiv said. He said the government does not want to curtail the press, but at the same time, people must be protected against defamation.

Kurdish rebels take a beating

ULUDERE, Turkey, Sept. 4, (Reuters): Fleeing Kurdish fighters say Iraq is using artillery and poison gas in a major offensive to finally crush a Kurdish rebellion going back to the 1920s.

One rebel leader who sought refuge in Turkey said the situation was worse than Vietnam.

The picture emerging from a mass exodus of rebels and refugees was that the Kurds, fighting for autonomy for more than 60 years, had taken a beating they might never recover from.

"If I tell you what has happened, you won't believe it. It is worse than Vietnam," said Akram May, a Peshmerga guerrilla leader from the Zakho area of northwest Iraq.

"Because we are a poor people on one will help us."

May and other fighters joined tens of thousands of civilians who escaped from Iraq since President Saddam Hussein turned his troops on the Kurdish rebels.

Ethnic strife leads Yugoslavia into economic crisis: Serbs

CRVENKA, Yugoslavia, Sept. 4, (Reuters): Thousands of Yugoslav protesters accused the country's communist rulers today of leaving ethnic strife unchecked while promoting economic ruin.

Serbian and Montenegrin protesters charged the leadership of this Balkan federation with allowing a Serb-Albanian ethnic conflict to go uncurbed in Kosovo province.

They also joined growing worker-criticism of politicians for corruption and incompetence as the country sinks deep into economic crisis involving 200 per cent inflation and huge debts.

Today's protest in the heart of Vojvodina supported Serbian Communist Party President Slobodan Milosevic's constitutional reform drive to wrest back the two areas under central Serbian rule.



Tutu... defies.

Blacks and Anglicans urged to boycott polls

Tutu defies state of emergency

CAPE TOWN, Sept. 4, (Reuters): Black Archbishop Desmond Tutu, defying South Africa's state of emergency regulations, urged blacks and Anglicans today not to vote in nationwide municipal elections next month.

Risking up to 10 years' imprisonment under emergency laws, Tutu made his plea to a packed multiracial congregation from the pulpit of St George's Cathedral in Cape Town.

Demands
"I call on all Anglicans in this diocese to consider carefully what God demands of them in this matter."

"I urge black people in this diocese not to vote in the October elections. I hope white Anglicans will join their black fellow Anglicans in that action," said

Tutu, an outspoken opponent for apartheid race segregation. Calls to boycott the Oct 26 elections are outlawed under the 27-month-old state of emergency and carry a penalty of up to 10 years in prison or a 20,000 rand (\$8,000) fine.

"I am aware of the penalties attached to this call," Tutu, dressed in white and gold archbishop's robes, said solemnly. "I am not defying the government. I obey God."

Opposed

Tutu, a Nobel peace prize winner, is Archbishop of Cape Town and head of the Anglican church in Southern Africa.

The municipal elections, for all races, are opposed by anti-apartheid campaigners who regard

black town councils as a front for maintaining white domination.

"These elections in an unjust dispensation cannot be fair."

"These elections in an unjust dispensation cannot be fair. The government is guilty of intimidation in wanting to force participation by placing heavy penalties on those calling for a boycott..." Tutu told the congregation of several hundred people which included the mayor of Cape Town.

Tutu has been in direct confrontation with President P.W. Botha over his calls for international anti-apartheid sanctions and for leading a protest march on Parliament last February.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said in a speech on

Friday that the time had come to "clip the wings" of people who hid behind the mask of liberation theology.

Responsible
Tutu asked why people responsible for attacks on anti-apartheid organisations were not normally arrested.

Referring to a bomb blast which devastated the Johannesburg offices of the anti-apartheid South African Council of Churches last week, Tutu said: "We do not know who is responsible but we keep on being suspicious."

He said it was the latest in a series of mysterious attacks on anti-apartheid groups.

Tutu was speaking at the ceremonial installation of Colin Jones as the first non-white dean of Cape Town.

Brezhnev's son-in-law goes on trial for bribery

MOSCOW, Sept. 4, (Reuters): Yuri Churbanov, the disgraced son-in-law of Leonid Brezhnev, will face the Soviet Supreme Court tomorrow in a multi-million dollar corruption case expected to put the entire Brezhnev era on trial.

Churbanov, 51, rose to become first deputy interior minister after marrying Leonid Brezhnev's daughter, Galina. He is accused of using his post at the top of the Soviet police establishment to take more than \$1 million in bribes.

Eight other top police officers, all from Uzbekistan, will be in the dock with him before the court's military college. Together they are accused of amassing several million dollars in bribes in the form of currency, gold and jewels.

"Such phenomena as bribery, speculation and theft existed before Brezhnev, but under him they flourished," Soviet deputy public prosecutor Alexander Katusev said in a commentary setting the tone of the courtroom drama.

Churbanov's defence attor-

ney, Andrei Makarov, has warned that the trial must not be used to judge "everything negative that took place in our country" during Brezhnev's 1964-82 rule.

But even before the court convenes, the press had made Churbanov into a powerful symbol of the Soviet decline under Brezhnev which Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev is seeking to reverse through his "perestroika" restructuring campaign.

Some 200 witnesses, including Galina Brezhnev, will testify in proceedings lasting several months. Foreign reporters will be admitted to court for the first four days. Selected members of the Soviet public will be let in with special passes.

A Soviet spokesman has confirmed that large-scale economic crimes are still punishable by the death penalty, but it is believed unlikely Churbanov would face execution if convicted.

State prosecutor Alexander Sboev, who will plead the government's case, recently said Churbanov's co-operation with investigators would be viewed as

an extenuating circumstance.

He said Churbanov confessed after his February 1987 arrest and helped police uncover a network of crime in Uzbekistan.

Soviet press accounts have described staggering corruption in Uzbekistan, a central Asian cotton-growing republic where state farm workers, underground millionaires, police and Communist Party officials, collaborated to cheat the state.

The party newspaper Pravda said in January that "cotton kings" had stolen four billion roubles (\$6.7 billion) from the state, "half of which went into their pockets," in a massive swindle involving falsified cotton production figures.

"What happened in the republic truly can be called a catastrophe, the scale of which is now difficult to realise," the weekly Sobesednik said in a pre-trial expose.

It said investigators had seized 4.5 million roubles (\$7.5 million), more than two-thirds of it in gold coins and jewels and much of it buried in far-flung Uzbek villages.

Mars closest to Earth in 17 years this month

CHICAGO, Sept. 4, (AP): Mars will move to within about 36 million miles (57 million kilometres) of earth this month — the closest it has been in 17 years — and dozens of "Mars watches" are planned to view the red planet named for the Roman god of war.

The planet will come closest to earth on Sept. 22, but the best time to see it will be the few nights after that, said Norman Wains, an astronomy professor at south suburban college in suburban

Chicago. "It's a perfect time to see because the moon doesn't come up until late at night," Wains said on Friday. "It's a definite orange bright spot in the southwestern sky...at night."

Concert

Mars will be visible about sunset local time all over the world. But in the southern hemisphere it will rise in the northeastern sky.

The Planetary Society, an amateur astronomy group, plans

about 50 Mars watches this month, said Linda Low, the group's Illinois regional coordinator. Thousands of smaller, informal Mars parties also will be held, she said.

Outspace buffs were encouraged to attend a Mars-watching picnic and jazz concert at the college. The last time earth and Mars were so close was in 1971, Wains said. He said viewing conditions this time are better because the planet is much higher in the sky.

Diehard coalminers end strike

Walesa faces dual challenge

WARSAW, Sept. 4, (Reuters): The end of Poland's labour unrest presented Solidarity leader Lech Walesa today with the challenge of winning concessions from the government to satisfy radical workers beyond the banned union's control.

Poland's worst strike wave in seven years ended yesterday after Walesa persuaded the last diehard coalminers to end their 20-day protest. Port workers and bus drivers in the northwestern city of Szczecin also halted stoppages.

Walesa urged a halt to the strikes after the communist authorities opened contacts with him for the first time in more than six years and promised they would consider re-legalising Solidarity, suppressed under martial law in Dec 1981.

"After the lessons of the past seven years, we have all understood that dialogue is needed," Walesa said yesterday in his hometown of Gdansk. "This time we must succeed in achieving compromise, because talks at the table mean compromise."

Seek

His appeal appeared directed not only at the communist leadership but also at radical young workers who showed during the strikes they suspect Walesa will be too willing to seek accommodation with the authorities in negotiations this month.

Polish political sources and Western diplomats said these workers, many of whom were mere teenagers when Walesa created Solidarity in 1980, were bearing the brunt of Poland's



Walesa

economic crisis and saw little reason to compromise with the government.

Unlike their elders, who can bear testimony to Walesa's courage and skills of leadership in 1980 and 1981, many young workers feel little direct allegiance to him and suspect he may be out of touch with present realities, the sources said.

Suspicion

Walesa's problem was highlighted in the close vote by which strikers at Gdansk's Lenin Shipyard, Solidarity's birthplace, decided on Aug 31 to return to work.

In Jastrzebie, scene of the last coal mine stoppage, he needed eight hours to overcome the suspicion of the pitmen and persuade them to restart work.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sam White dies

PARIS, Sept. 4, (Reuters): Sam White, Paris correspondent for the London Evening Standard since 1947, died today aged 71, his family said.

White, who was first taken on at the Standard by British press baron Lord Beaverbrook, died at a Paris clinic where he had been receiving treatment for respiratory problems.

"He lived well up until the end. He didn't give anything up — smoking, eating or drinking," daughter-in-law Linda White said.

Escape

BERLIN, Sept. 4, (UPI): In the third such escape in two weeks, two East Germans swam a border body of water to West Berlin early today, West Berlin police reported.

The men, 20 and 30, were seen by border guards on the eastern bank of the Havel canal, but the guards did not shoot.

On Friday two men swam the Havel river to flee to West Berlin. They told West Berlin police an East German patrol boat had seen them as they swam the river but did not open fire.

Two weeks ago four East Germans, three men and a woman, swam the Spree river to West Berlin near the Reichstag, the pre-war parliament building.

Power restored

SEATTLE, Sept. 4, (AP): Utility crews finally restored service last night to parts of a 50-block downtown section that had been without electricity since the middle of the week.

But Seattle city light officials asked customers not to turn on their air conditioning immediately, out of fear of a surge of demand on one of the hottest days of the year. The temperature in Seattle hit 92 degrees Fahrenheit (33.33 Celsius), a record for the date, the National Weather Service said.

French presence ...

(Continued from Page 1)

on the nature of the proposals he indicated Kuwait's willingness to buy weapons to suit its needs and strengthen military defence.

Chevenement, who was on his first trip outside Europe since he took office three months ago, said he reviewed Iraq's political and military situation during his meetings with HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and Sheikh Nawaf.

The French minister said his country was "keen to further develop ancient ties with Kuwait in political, military and other fields."

Bangladeshis face starvation, disease

(Continued from Page 1)

Pakistan, the United States, Britain and Australia have already promised nearly \$1.5 million in rice and cash.

But officials say that relief supplies from abroad cannot start reaching the country in bulk until Dhaka airport reopens.

"The survival of an estimated 10 million people made homeless or stranded by the floods will depend much on how soon normal air traffic resumes," one relief official said.

At least 65 people have died of diarrhoea and dysentery caused by rotten food and contaminated water in the past week.

Doctors say thousands of families sheltering in overcrowded relief camps in Dhaka, huddling on river embankments or clinging to their flooded homes are threatened by starvation and disease.

Supplies

President Hossain Mohammad Ershad said the country had only 1.2 million tonnes of grains in stock and needed nearly three million tonnes in emergency supplies.

Anthony Kennedy, chief representative in Dhaka of the

United Nations relief agency UNICEF, said today he feared a disastrous epidemic of water-borne diseases once the floodwaters started receding.

"The situation could be dangerous because most flood survivors would have no alternative to using contaminated water and eating whatever is available easily," he said.

Hundreds of people are falling sick every day, one official said. Army and civilian medical teams are working round the clock. All leave for doctors have been cancelled and nurses and volunteers have been asked to stand by.

The Dhaka office of the World Health Organisation said it had already distributed \$37,000 worth of water-purifying tablets, oral rehydration saline and anti-snake venom among the flood victims.

Apart from food, Bangladesh has also appealed for funds to rebuild flood-washed roads, railway tracks and bridges.

Dhaka Weather Office said today that all major rivers were above danger levels and the overall flood situation would remain critical over the next few days.

8,000 dead in ...

(Continued from Page 1)

The Irish relief agency Concern yesterday sent eight lorries from Khartoum loaded with supplies for southern Kordofan.

Al Ayam said several hundred southerners had died of hunger and exhaustion while trying to walk 300 km (180 miles) to southern Kordofan from Wau, capital of Bahr Al Ghazal.

A group of Sudanese Catholic bishops said on Friday that up to 10,000 people could die in Torit, in the southern Equatorial Region bordering Uganda, if 250 tonnes of food did not get through immediately.

They quoted the local bishop as saying the town was besieged by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and an air drop was the only way to prevent mass deaths.

Rebels

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was due to meet SPLA members in Addis Ababa today to discuss a plan to send food and aid to six southern towns held by either the rebels or the Army.

The ICRC two weeks ago gave the guerrillas a final plan, drafted in February but stalled for months, which the Khartoum government has already approved.



Discover gold

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

INTERNATIONAL

Lee leads ruling party to a landslide victory

SINGAPORE, Sept. 4, (Reuters): Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew led his ruling People's Action Party to a landslide election victory and said he would step down as premier after 30 years in office.

Lee, at a news conference today after the final results of yesterday's voting were announced, said he would step down as prime minister whenever his nominated successor Goh Chok Tong felt ready to take over.

"My successor... can nudge me and have my seat," said Lee, who will be 65 years old on Sept. 16.



Lee: ready to quit

Ready

But Goh, the first Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, said the time was not yet ripe. "Inside two years I'll be ready to gently nudge the prime minister out, or try anyway."

In yesterday's general election, held 15 months ahead of schedule, the ruling party won 80 of 81 seats at stake. 11 of them uncontested and captured 61.8 per cent of the vote, keeping its popularity level almost intact.

Only Chiam See Tong of the opposition Singapore Democratic Party won re-election, was able to deny the ruling party a clean sweep.

The Worker's Party, Singapore's largest opposition party, suffered a major reverse in the defeat of former solicitor general and vehement government critic, Francis Seow.

Seow, in his first attempt at politics, lost by 1,279 votes in a constituency of about 75,700 voters.

"It was a good fight. I wish, however, it had been a little cleaner," he told his supporters, referring to signed leaflets issued by the ruling party which questioned his moral and financial integrity.

Lee, who came to power in 1959, the year the island became a self governing state after years of British rule, said his party's eighth consecutive election win was a solid mandate for the new generation of younger leaders.

"The transition is complete," he said.

The election heralded a changing of the guard for the party, 14 of whose veterans stepped down to make way for new candidates, most of them professionals in their 30s and 40s.

Lee was the only member of the old guard in the election line-up and the most popular. He won 79.4 per cent of the votes cast in his old Tanjong Pagar constituency, the best showing among 156 candidates who contested 70 seats.

Goh said he would prepare a new cabinet list in the next two to three days and present it to Lee for his approval.

In the last elections in 1984, the ruling party lost two of 79 seats at stake and its share of the vote dropped to 62.9 per cent from 75.6 per cent previously. It was the first time it had failed to sweep the board since independence in 1965.



Thousands of Burmese march through monsoon showers in Rangoon demanding democracy.

US congressman in Burma to assess situation

RANGOON, Sept. 4, (AP): US Congressman Stephen J. Solarz, a critic of authoritarian governments in Asia, arrived in Burma's capital yesterday where entrenched leaders continue to hold out against widespread opposition demanding a return to democracy.

Usually reliable sources said Solarz was to meet with President Maung Maung and key opposition figures, and Solarz said that he came to "see what, if anything, the United States can do to facilitate the peaceful emergence of a genuine democracy."

Meetings

"I've come in order to assess the situation and its implications for American interest in the region," Solarz said by telephone after arriving in Rangoon. He was contacted from Bangkok, Thailand.

The sources said Solarz was to hold separate meetings with Maung Maung, Aung Gyi, Burma's best-known dissident who was recently freed from a month's detention, and Tin Oo, a

former defence minister who has re-emerged to lead calls for multi-party democracy.

Solarz chairs the Asian and Pacific affairs subcommittee of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. He has spoken out in the past against repressive policies of former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and the ultra-radical Khmer Rouge that ruled Kampuchea until late 1978.

Demonstrations

Diplomats say the international community has limited influence over Burma because it is a neutral nation without close allies. It also is extremely sensitive to what it considers foreign interference.

Japan and West Germany are the biggest aid donors. The United States has a relatively modest programme aimed largely at helping Rangoon combat opium production in the so-called "Golden Triangle" by aerial spraying of fields.

Students and other protest leaders have called for large-scale demonstrations on Sept. 8 to press for an interim government to oversee the transition to a

multi-party system. Strikes and protests against the 26-year rule of the Burma Socialist Programme Party have been virtually daily events, and it is unclear what else activists could do.

The government wants the party leadership to meet Sept. 12 to consider calling for a popular vote on ending one-party rule. The protesters want an interim government formed before then, but Maung Maung has rejected that, saying such a move would violate the constitution.

Burma has been under single-party rule since Gen. Ne Win led a 1962 military coup that toppled an elected government.

On Friday, a Western diplomat in Rangoon cited reports that protesters have taken over some 40 town governments in recent weeks.

Another indication of the breakdown in order has been several jail riots, leading authorities to free thousands of inmates from overcrowded and damaged prisons. State-run Radio Rangoon said 486 prisoners were freed yesterday in the central city of Mandalay.

Debate on PLO position

Palestinian groups hold talks on unity

ROME, Sept. 4, (AP): Several Palestinian groups have concluded talks in Tripoli on forming a united front, the official Libyan news agency Jana has reported.

The agency, monitored in Rome, said the groups "agreed on the formula of conditions which they will submit to Yasser Arafat as the basis for accepting the unity of the Palestinian organisation."

It added that Libya would mediate between the groups. Jana said the talks ended Friday but did not say when they started or which groups they involved.

Among the Palestinian leaders in Tripoli last week for the celebration of Moammar Khaddafi's 19 years in power were George Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Nayef Hawatmeh, who leads the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Ahmed Jibril, whose Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command split from the Habash group in 1968.

Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was also in Tripoli for the anniversary of the 1969 coup. A Jana dispatch said he met with Khaddafi, but it did not say when.

Debate

The PLO reportedly is debating whether to declare a state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to 1.5 million Palestinians. It is also considering whether to establish a provisional government or government-in-exile.

Throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians were holding an intense and sometimes violent debate on the wisdom of declaring a state and forming a provisional government.

Leading members of Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO have proposed recognising Israel and seeking international recognition for statehood of the Israeli-occupied lands.

These ideas are meeting surprisingly strong opposition from Islamic groups and radical leftists. The misgivings prompted a recent decision to postpone until the first week of October a meeting of the 447-seat Palestine

National Council, the PLO's Parliament-in-exile.

The debate also has touched off some inter-Palestinian violence. Last month, for example, the car of a prominent Islamic fundamentalist was firebombed in Gaza and PLO supporters were blamed.

Violence

Daoud Quttab, a prominent journalist and leading advocate of a provisional government, wrote in the weekly Al Sinara that Palestinians "should not hesitate" or they would lose a golden opportunity.

"One of the problems in the past has been that the PLO was too tied to the principle of national consensus. You can't have total agreement on every issue. The majority should decide. Having some opposition, in fact, would be healthy," Quttab said in an interview.

Quttab argued a major benefit of changing from a commando organisation to a provisional government would be an improvement of the Palestinian image, especially in Western eyes.

Muslim fundamentalists of the Islamic Jihad and the even harder line Hamas (zeal) are opposed to the existence of a Jewish state. They demand an Islamic state and remain outside the PLO because it calls for a secular nation.

Ahmad Ismail Yassin, spiritual leader of the Islamic Jihad who has hinted that fundamentalists may form an alternative PLO if a secular state is declared, indicated he was concerned about inter-Palestinian violence and warned it was a "dangerous disease."

Arafat in Baghdad

NICOSIA, Sept. 4, (AP): Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Baghdad today to chair a series of meetings in advance of a crucial session of the Palestine National Council.

Arafat flew in from Tunisia. Last week he was in Libya and Romania as part of his campaign to win regional and international support for plans to declare the creation of a "provisional government" to run the affairs of the world's five million Palestinians.

Non-Aligned Movement meeting

Massive security alert in Cyprus

NICOSIA, Sept. 4, (Reuters): Cyprus has ordered a massive security alert to protect foreign ministers gathering for a meeting of 99 states of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Officials said the conference opening in the capital Nicosia tomorrow would be the biggest ever held on the island and security was a major concern.

Some 2,000 police have been mobilised to provide round-the-clock security for some 60 foreign ministers and 800 delegates.

Members of the island's crack anti-terrorist police squad staged exercises outside the new \$13-million conference centre last week.

Another police contingent mounted a trial "escort service" for ministers arriving at Larnaca airport on the southern coast, about 40 km (25 miles) from Nicosia.

The alert has been ordered because of several guerrilla incidents in Cyprus in recent years involving mainly Middle Eastern groups.

Last May a car bomb exploded on a road bridge in central Nicosia, killing three people. The nearby Israeli embassy was believed to have been the target.

In April, pro-Iranian radicals forced a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner to land in Larnaca and killed two hostages before taking off for Algiers.

An official at the conference centre said armed guards were already patrolling in and around the venue ahead of the meeting, which begins with senior officials meeting in preparatory sessions.

Disgraced leader dies

MOSCOW, Sept. 4, (Reuters): The death of retired Georgian Communist Party leader Vasily Mzhavanadze at age 85 has been reported in an official announcement which made no reference to his former rank and described him as a "pensioner."

The term is the same used to describe Nikita Khrushchev when he died in disgrace in 1971, seven years after his ouster as Soviet leader in a Kremlin coup.

Cypriot President George Vassiliou will officially open the ministerial session on Wednesday.

Chaired by Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Naythan Shamuyarira, the meeting will review progress achieved since the 1986 Harare summit and choose the movement's next leader. It will also deal with global and regional political and economic issues.

Indonesia and Nicaragua are bidding for the leadership for the next four years, but diplomats say a compromise candidate may emerge at the Nicosia conference.

Cyprus, as host country, has prepared a draft declaration for the conference in an attempt to build a consensus ahead of a U.N. General Assembly session later this month.

"On average one might expect 1,400 amendments to a declaration of 150 pages, about 10 per page. I think if we have 1,000 amendments I would be very happy that we've done a good job," Foreign Minister George Iacovou told Reuters.

On Friday, Iacovou called on non-aligned states to exploit new opportunities in an era of super-power rapprochement.

Rapprochement

"The most important thing is for the conference to realise that the movement has a new personality, to exploit the opportunities that are given it following the rapprochement of the super-powers," he said in an interview.

The non-aligned conference is seen as a boost for Cyprus, an island of about 800,000 people largely known as a destination for thousands of sun-seeking tourists.

"The conference will enhance the prestige of Cyprus, a founding member of the movement. Cyprus plays a role much in excess of its size," a political source said.

Foreign journalists covering the conference had to be booked into hotels as far away as Limassol, 80 km (50 miles) distant, with accommodation in the capital packed to capacity.

Bomb blast in Karachi injures 12

KARACHI, Sept. 4, (UPI): A bomb exploded at a railway station in the southern port of Karachi today, injuring 12 people, police said.

They said the device, hidden behind some washing machines which were to be loaded onto a train, exploded at about 10 am on a platform at the station.

They said 12 people on the platform were wounded, three seriously, but said casualties were limited because the washing machines received the full force of the blast.

Blame

There was no indication of who planted the bomb, but officials have blamed other explosions in the city and in areas near the Afghan border on agents of the Kabul government seeking to destabilise Pakistan, which supports Muslim rebels fighting the Soviet-installed regime in Afghanistan.

A bomb blast on Tuesday killed three people, including a soldier, and injured 14 on a train in northwestern Attock city.

Cure for snoring

BEIJING, Sept. 4, (Agencies): Chinese scientists claim to have a cure for snoring, nasal drops made from natural ingredients, the official China Daily said today.

The remedy, said to be 95 per cent effective, is planned to go into mass production next month and would be exported, the paper added.

"Two drops of the medicine placed in the nostrils before going to bed can stop snoring," the paper quoted the Health Care Product Research Centre director Yang Yisong as saying. He said it was the first such cure developed in China.

Yang described the potion as "the best treatment, because it is not only effective but also convenient and easy to use."

Police prevent commemoration of widow burning

DEORALA, India, Sept. 4, (Reuters): Police and a tough stand by the government prevented a massive festival planned on Sunday to commemorate the death of an 18-year-old girl who threw herself on her husband's funeral pyre a year ago.

Sati, the act of widows hurling themselves on the cremation pyres of their dead husbands, has been outlawed for 150 years. But isolated incidents still bring reverence and glorification from conservative Hindus who believe that the rite is the ultimate mark of a virtuous wife.

Indoors

Thousands watched as Roop Kanwar leapt into the flames last Sept. 4, eight months after her marriage, and villagers grateful for the glory it brought this dusty corner of Rajasthan state planned a temple for the site of the death.

But today the villagers kept indoors and police kept vigil at the site where a faded yellow scarf hung on a trident, symbol of the deity Shiva. All around the village, volunteers pasted anti-sati posters.

So strong has been the government campaign in the obscure sugarcane growing village of Deorala that residents now deny the pride they appeared to take in the young girl's death.

The father and two brothers of Mal Singh, Roop Kanwar's 21-year-old husband, are charged with murder of the young widow, although they are now free on bail.

Mal Singh's father Sumer Singh Shekhawat, a school principal, said he had no memory of the day. "I became unconscious after hearing about the death of my son," he said.

"I don't know what happened. I think she committed sati of her own. I am sure the family tried to stop her."

When Roop Kanwar died the village was ecstatic. People chanted "sati is immortal" as the flames engulfed her, and at the time witnesses said she looked calm as she sat cradling her husband's head in her lap and chanting hymns.

He has referred increasingly to his own mortality in recent years, describing himself as "a setting sun" and telling one foreign visitor this summer that whether he was able to take his annual dip in the sea of Beidaihe would be proof of his health.

Watershed

Meeting with another foreign leader recently, Deng jokingly cited an ancient Chinese superstition which states that the ages of 73 and 84 are watershed years in a lifetime.

Deng has said he now works only two hours a day, leaving the chief tasks of government to his chosen successor, Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang. "I still put forward some ideas, but other people do the work," he said.

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While Deng recently said he had "basically" completed the task of lining up his successor, he remains the supreme force in Chinese politics, a position he will probably hold until he dies.

Hawke defeated in referendum

SYDNEY, Sept. 4, (AP): Prime Minister Bob Hawke said today his defeat in yesterday's national referendum on constitutional change represented a lost opportunity for all Australians while the opposition claimed a major political victory.

Liberal Party leader John Howard said the referendum, which would have extended the present term of the government and broadened civil rights laws, was a waste of tax money.

"I'm sad that this opportunity, particularly in our bicentennial year when we are thinking of the past and considering the future, was not taken by the Australian people to bring changes," Hawke said.

Tamil rebels kill 12

COLOMBO, Sept. 4, (AP): Tamil rebels today blew up a military vehicle in northern Sri Lanka killing nine government soldiers and injuring three others, military officials said.

The attack near Vavuniya followed an ambush by the rebels in the northeastern city of Trincomalee yesterday in which three Sri Lankan soldiers were killed.

The military officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said the rebels used remote control explosives to blow up the military vehicle at

Howard called the outcome—a 60 per cent vote against change—a "slap in the face" for Hawke and his Labour government, which has won three consecutive elections since 1983.

Attorney-General Lionel Bowen said the result killed any chance of constitutional reform for at least a decade.

Pollsters had predicted the referendum would fail. Voters were asked to cast a "yes" or "no" vote on each of the following proposed constitutional changes:

- Set maximum four-year terms in both the House of Representatives, where members currently serve three-year terms, and in the Senate, where mem-

bers serve six-year terms. It also would have set simultaneous elections for both chambers, starting the year they are called by the prime minister.

- Guarantee that one vote had just one value to counteract the existing system in Queensland and Western Australia, where electoral boundaries give sparsely populated rural areas the same weight as more populous urban areas. That arrangement in the past favoured the ruling party.

- Grant constitutional recognition to local government, which did not exist when the constitution came into force in 1901, at the time of federation.

- Explicitly guarantee trial by jury, freedom of religion and fair compensation for land owners whose property is acquired by government. These rights are already practised by virtue of British law, which provides the basis of the Australian legal system, but are not in Australia's constitution.

Hawke had sought an extended term of government, saying the current three years does not allow any administration to carry out its policies effectively.

Australia has 10.3 million eligible voters. Australians, whom polls show know little about their constitution, usually vote "no" in referendums. Only eight of 38 held since 1901 have succeeded.

Deng Xiaoping in declining health

BEIJING, Sept. 4, (UPI): Senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, who turned 84 last month, is suffering from prostate problems for some time, said a Chinese source close to the family said today.

Family friends said the veteran revolutionary has become increasingly reluctant to step outside in recent months, only emerging from his courtyard home in a sequestered Beijing lane to meet visiting heads of state or to attend major gatherings.

Deng, who quietly marked his 84th birthday Aug. 22, has been suffering from prostate problems for some time, said a Chinese source close to the family.

The octogenarian communist leader, who launched China on its ambitious programme of market-oriented economic reforms, requires artificial help to urinate, said the source who declined to be identified.

"Deng Xiaoping is in good health," said a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman. She refused to comment on the reported prostate trouble.

But the source said China's most powerful man has complained privately of deteriorating health in recent months.

Refused

Deng has attributed his longevity to a daily cold shower, claiming that it has offset his indulgence in strong Chinese liquor and Panda-brand cigarettes.

The prostate is a male gland related to reproduction and in many older men it often swells, causing urinary problems and requiring surgery.

Tanned

Deng, looking deeply tanned and fit, met with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita last week on his return from several weeks at the northern seaside beach resort of Beidaihe, the summer playground of China's leaders.

But the regular summer publicity shot of the diminutive leader wading into the waves flanked by a half dozen muscular bodyguards has yet to appear this year.

He has referred increasingly to his own mortality in recent years, describing himself as "a setting sun" and telling one foreign visitor this summer that whether he was able to take his annual dip in the sea of Beidaihe would be proof of his health.

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Al Ghazali Road Project on schedule

A RESPONSIBLE source at the Ministry of Public Works has said that the Al Ghazali Road Project is proceeding satisfactorily and that the French contracting company which is carrying out the work is on schedule.

The project will improve and expand about 4.1 kilometres of the Ghazali Road and will extend from south of its junction with Jamal Abdul Naser Road to the junction with the 5th Ring Road. A 1,850-metre flyover and a pedestrian bridge are also planned. The crossroads of Ghazali Street, Jahra Road and the 3rd Ring Road will be improved to facilitate the flow of traffic.

The source pointed out that work on the project began on June 10, 1985 and is expected to be completed in February, at a cost of about KD 31 million.

Boodai Cargo wins award

BOODAI Aviation Cargo Division has won the Golden Cargo Award of Gulf Air as the number one cargo agent in Kuwait. They have also been nominated as the top cargo agent of Saudi Airlines.

Boodai Cargo has undergone tremendous growth and is now well-established and recognised on an international level, said Samer Darwish, manager of Boodai Aviation Cargo.

Boodai Cargo has also been appointed an exclusive member of the World Air Cargo Organisation.

Kuwaitis, Danes urge commitment to peace

By Jadranka Porter

KUWAIT and Denmark yesterday called on the international community to play an active role in furthering the Gulf peace talks in Geneva, according to Denmark's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen.

Ellemann-Jensen, who is winding up a two-day visit to Kuwait today, said Kuwait and Denmark agreed that the international community should show a stronger commitment to the peace process.

"We got a clear message from HH the Amir that the international community should not sit back and relax and leave the negotiations only to the parties concerned," said Ellemann-Jensen. He is on a Gulf tour that will

include visits to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

He said Denmark will urge its partners in the European Economic Community to step up their role in the peace negotiations.

Discussions yesterday between the Danish minister and HH the Amir centred on the Gulf peace negotiations, Kuwait-Danish political and economic co-operation, EEC-GCC negotiations and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Ellemann-Jensen and a 30-member accompanying delegation also met Kuwait's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Al Osaimi and the president of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Al Sager. The Kuwaiti and Danish

officials agreed that the co-operation between the two countries should extend beyond a mere exchange of goods.

"We want our relations to go beyond the exchange of a barrel of oil for a case of cheese," said Ellemann-Jensen.

Discussing the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Danish minister said that developments in the occupied territories are threatening the peace process and are a breach of international law.

"We have told the Israelis so and will continue to say so," said Ellemann-Jensen.

"We hope that the moderates on both sides will gain sufficiently in strength so that the peace process can be furthered," he added. He also said Denmark supported plans for an international peace conference.



HH the Amir meets with Denmark's Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen (third from left).

Law revisions urged

SEVERAL Kuwaiti lawyers yesterday stressed that the present law governing the legal profession in the country has several shortcomings.

The lawyers said that new law graduates should receive at least two years of training before being permitted to appear in courts. New lawyers should come under strict scrutiny, they added.

The lawyers also said the law does not provide adequate protection or stability for lawyers in Kuwait.

One of the lawyers said that clauses relating to new lawyers fall short of meeting new developments and modern issues and this directly affects the entire judicial system in the country.

He urged revisions in the present law supervising the legal profession. Any new law must concentrate on the important social role a lawyer can play. The new law should also spell out the duties and rights of lawyers and should ensure that only deserving lawyers are admitted to the field, he said.

Ahmadi ready for start of new academic year

THE director of Ahmadi Educational Area, Abdulla Al Lagman, has said that the area has completed preparations for the start of the new academic year tomorrow.

There are six new schools in the area. A number of classrooms are pre-fabricated, but these classrooms will be removed during the coming few years after more new schools are built in the governorate, he said.

Al Lagman also said that the newly-contracted Ministry of Education teachers have arrived in Kuwait, teachers of music and practical studies are still needed in the schools. The ministry is doing its best to find teachers for these subjects, he said.

Only offices, large halls, libraries and theatres have air-conditioning, he said. Classrooms only have fans.

Mirghani ends visit

THE leader of the Sudanese Unionist Democratic Party, Mohammed Othman Al Mirghani and his accompanying delegation left Kuwait yesterday for Iraq after an eight-day visit at the invitation from HH the Amir.

During their stay in Kuwait, the Sudanese delegation met HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and other high ranking officials.

Bilateral relations and ways of fostering them topped the talks, which also tackled the situation in Sudan following the flash floods in the country.

Two American films blacklisted

THE Israeli Boycott Office in Kuwait yesterday announced in the official Gazette the blacklisting of two American films, "King Kong Lives" and "Times Square".

The CBS network distributed the first and Columbia Pictures the second. Both companies are blacklisted by the Israeli Boycott Office.

Additionally, 30 branches and affiliated companies of the US Dover Corp. were blacklisted. The corporation was blacklisted in July.

A Cypriot company, General Agency Import and Export was also blacklisted. The firm was originally the Famagusta General Agency which was blacklisted in 1957. A French company, Israeli Chemical, operating in France under the name Transphos (Siapone) was also added to the list.

A Cypriot vessel "Sea Maid" was blacklisted for visiting an Israeli port and carrying a ship for Israel.

Thousands of students unable to register

THOUSANDS of Kuwait University students were disappointed on Saturday after they were unable to register for the new academic year.

The computer registration system, introduced for the first time, failed miserably, according to

the secretary of the National Union of Kuwait Students.

Computer operators were not sufficiently trained to operate the system, he said. However, he praised the university officials' quick response and decision to stop computerised registration.

Late Saturday, Dr Abdul Mohsen Al Abdul Razzak, the Rector of Kuwait University, chaired a meeting of the University Deans Committee which decided to suspend registration on Sunday and resume operations manually on Monday.



A big rush of students for registration.

Kuwait cabinet reviews international developments

THE Kuwaiti cabinet yesterday discussed the progress of Iran-Iraq peace negotiations in Geneva. State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed said that the Council of Ministers hoped that negotiators will find practical formulas to apply the articles of Security Council Resolution 598 to ensure a lasting and comprehensive settlement and bring stability to the Gulf region.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah briefed the ministers last week's visit to Kuwait by Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan and his meeting with HH the Amir.

The Iraqi official conveyed a message from President Saddam Hussein dealing with the Geneva talks.

Paris' role

The state minister said that Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed discussed the current visit to Kuwait by French Defence Minister Jean Pierre Chevènement who also delivered a message to HH the Amir from President Francois Mitterrand.

Mitterrand's message dealt with Paris' role in boosting peace efforts and backing Arab causes. He also invited HH the Amir to visit France.

Al Rashed said that Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa informed the ministers about OPEC Secretary-General Dr Subyoto's talks here on the organisation's production quotas and pricing policies.

The cabinet expressed hopes that all OPEC member countries should shoulder their responsibility to support the organisation and maintain its strength to benefit all parties, he went on.

Afforestation

The Council of Ministers, meeting under the chairmanship of Sheikh Saad, also agreed yesterday to send food to flood-stricken Bangladesh.

The weekly cabinet session started with a review of messages addressed to HH the Amir from the President of Yemen Arab Republic Col. Ali Abdullah Saleh who stressed the two countries' strong relations, Al Rashed said.

The cabinet decided to set

aside Oct 15 each year as a day to shed light on afforestation projects, the state minister said.

He also called on citizens to co-operate with the national plan to improve the environment in Kuwait.

Al Rashed also said the cabinet passed a draft decree establishing a 15-year renewable portfolio with the Kuwait Industrial Bank at the value of KD 50 million to encourage agricultural production.

Preparations

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khaled Al Jassar reported on meetings with the leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, Kuwairi leaders and the Sudanese official discussed bilateral co-operation, Al Rashed said.

Education Minister Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri briefed the cabinet on preparations for the new scholastic year.

The cabinet yesterday also passed a draft law re-organising the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and approved an agreement on regular air routes with Egypt, Al Rashed said.

Al Sane returns

KUWAIT Army's chief-of-staff came home yesterday after six days of defence talks in Moscow, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

Major-General Mezyed Al Sane, who led a high-ranking military delegation to the Soviet Union, held talks there on boosting military co-operation KUNA said without elaborating.

Kuwait, which in the past bought most of its arms from the United States and other Western countries, purchased 245 armoured personnel carriers from the Soviet Union last June.

The Kuwaitis last month signed a 1.9-billion-dollar arms contract with Washington for 40 F-18 fighters equipped with anti-ship Maverick missiles.

Saudis call for new spirit of peace

(Continued from Page 1)

stipulated that the non-belligerent Gulf states should be consulted by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to devise a "peace formula."

"Although we are not directly participating in the current negotiations under way between Iraq and Iran in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations, the Security Council resolution clearly stipulates that the Gulf states have a role in guaranteeing freedom of navigation in the Gulf and in finding a formula that guarantees peace and stability for the region," he said in a statement reported by the Kuwait News Agency.

Kuwait, the closest Gulf state to the Iran-Iraq war zone, suffered the most from the conflict. Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yousef Al Alawi, who was in Tehran after the ceasefire took hold, said the GCC meeting will "concentrate on how to bolster and cement what Iraq and Iran have agreed upon under the aegis of the United Nations." He did not elaborate.

Al Alawi arrived in Saudi Arabia a day ahead of the session to deliver a message from Sultan Qaboos to King Fahd which was related to his mission to Tehran, diplomatic sources said.

The UAE minister, Rashed Abdullah, said in an arrival statement that the Riyadh meeting "is the first, with a constructive atmosphere prevailing in the region." And the talks at Geneva will take a substantial share of our deliberations."

Bahrain's Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak, expressed hope that the meeting would "crystallize a joint visualisation for the coming state, especially as the Iran-Iraq war is entering a new phase."

Mine destroyed off Qatar's coast

BAHRAIN, Sept 4, (Reuters): The Qatari Navy destroyed a Soviet-made mine off the Gulf state's coast today, the official Qatar News Agency reported.

The agency said the mine was found off Ras Laffan on Qatar's northeastern coast.

The United States had accused Iran several times in the past of planting mines in the Gulf to disrupt shipping as part of its eight-year war with Iraq. Iran denied the charges.

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Classic examples of plagiarism

By Fathima Ahmed

BOMBAY filmmakers must have the dubious distinction of being blatant plagiarists. It wouldn't be so bad if credit was given to men/women who wrote the original films. Hindi filmmakers don't admit they look to the West for ideas, good or bad.

A classic example is Raaksh Roshan's *Khoon Bhari Maang*, a copy of the Australian soap opera *Return to Eden*.

Protagonist Aarti's murder in the lake when she is devoured by snarling crocodiles (but not killed) has been taken frame by frame from *Return to Eden*. Similarities abound in the film like Aarti's friendship with Nandini, who lets her down and deceives her; her husband's deception who plots to kill her to usurp her inheritance; Aarti's rescue by a hermit, who nurses her back to health and her transformation into Jyoti, a stunning model, becoming the avenger. These are some stark reminders of the slick Australian version.

Of course, Roshan changes the script, when not necessary, to suit the Indian milieu and applies emotional blackmail. Aarti's children, who adored their stepfather, dread his anger after her disappearance. The children's fears and tears are supposed to touch your heart, particularly when Aarti alias Jyoti attends the parent's day meeting and hears them sing a childhood melody. One almost expects them to grow up while singing the number.

Gratefully, they don't. Neither does the villain — Chachaji (Kader Khan), a new character which did not exist in *Return to Eden*.

An annoying aspect is the over-emphasis on the "miracles of plastic surgery." Rekha as Aarti, sans makeup, looks frighteningly draconian. But as Jyoti, she models, dances and sing her way to the top of the society to get back at the villains. If you've seen the original, there is no point in wasting time on a poor copy, unless someone is keen to find out how Rekha looks with draconian teeth. Rekha's fans may not digest the unglamorous look the actress wears for the better part of the film. Kabir Bedi, who had turned to Hollywood, returns as a villain in *Khoon Bhari Maang*.

A comparatively better copy of an English thriller is *Daya Nihalani's Andha Yuddh* (The Blind War). Though the story idea is credited to Neeta D. Sharma, you have a sneaky suspicion that it is again an example of plagiarism.

Viewers are as anxious to see the hostage drama end. It starts off after a chief minister is assassinated while speaking at a ceremony. The hitman (Raj Babbar) escapes with police in tow and hides in a house, taking a girl hostage.

And thus begins the wait and watch game as the ruthless killer commits a series of murders. The hapless policemen, led by the DSP (Nana Patekar) keep watch as politicians sabotage their plan to get reinforcements.



Rekha plays the good, the bad and the ugly in *Khoon Bhari Maang*.

Inside the house, the hostage, played by Pallavi Joshi, tries to rekindle some of the lost humanity in her conversations with the hit man. Nihalani has let the characters take over, allowing them to interpret complex emotions — fear, hope, and self-pity as he tackles the anguish of the victim's family.

Though Nihalani sustains the interest in the hostage drama and maintains momentum — he could not do the same with

the climax. In the final moment, we question Nihalani's needless inclusion of political corruption, and final justice meted out by the DSP, in a thriller.

Raj Babbar excels in anti-hero roles. He received rave reviews for playing the psychopathic rapist in his first film *Insaaf Ka Tarazu*. In later movies, he tried playing the romantic and did light-hearted roles, but failed to repeat the initial success. Perhaps, Babbar is remodeling his career and plunging headlong to become the odd man out. In recent films, for example *Kanwarlal*, Babbar plays roles normally reserved for villains. It doesn't seem the actor is reversing roles — he seems to be tapping his talent for emoting, strongly evident in *Andha Yuddh*.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwania. Tel: 471-2900.



Raj Babbar turns to an anti-hero role in *Andha Yuddh*.



● The Ambassador of Sri Lanka, A.C.H. Mohammad, who is also the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, on Saturday hosted a reception at a local hotel to say goodbye to outgoing Somali Ambassador, Mohammad S.M. Mallangur, who leaves Kuwait shortly. Above: Mohammad presenting a silver tray to Mallangur.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
The museum will be open to the public every evening from 5 pm and from 9 am on Fridays.

Islamic Arts Museum
The museum, located on Arab Gulf Street, is open from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm, Saturday thru Thursday. A collection of the finest Islamic art objects are on show.

Tareq Rajab Museum
The museum in Jabriya houses a collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world. Summer timings are 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, Sat. thru Thurs. On Friday the museum is open only in the mornings.

EDUCATION

British Council
The education adviser at the British Council, Mansouriya, will give a talk on "Bachelor Degrees in Britain" on Monday, Sept 12, 6 pm. For further details tele. Mrs Kate Harries on 2515512/2533204.

MUSIC

Country Western Musical
The American Community Theatre is rounding up singers, dancers and musicians for their annual Country and Western musical, to be held at the end of September. Interested talents, contact Nancy Parker 2523911/ext. 2346, 5725071 (evenings) or Nola Anderson 2428366.

Sounds Great
Auditions will be held on Sept 15-17 for singers and dancers for the next Sounds Great show, to be held at the Salmiyah cinema on Oct 19-22. For details ring Ken Winston or Adolf 5740256/7 or 5758870.

Indian Ballet

Narthana, a dance troupe led by Mohiniyattam exponent Mrs Prameela Sureshchandra, will stage a ballet, *Prithvishas*, at the Indian Arts Circle, on Sept 22 at 7.00 pm. Admission will be strictly limited; for free passes, call 4337608.

East meets West

The Indian Arts Circle presents "East meets West," a musical evening, by The Fams featuring Hindi, Punjabi, Malayalam, Tamil, Konkani, Bengali, Arabic and Western music. The lead vocalist will be Susan Rego. It will be held at IAC, Funatees, at 6.30 pm on Oct 6. Entry by passes. Tel: 2409250; 4743948 or IAC — 3904817.

Beat Show

The Kuwait Goan Beat Show will be held on Oct 14, 3.30 pm, at the IAC, Funatees. The four-hour show will feature six popular groups — City Limits, 5th Dimensions, Perfect Stranger, Stepping Stones, Next of Kin and Top Ranks. The show has been organised by the Kuwait Goans.

SOCIAL

Welcome Back/Welcome to Kuwait

The Sounds Great organisation will hold a "Welcome Back/Welcome to Kuwait" dance party at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Sept 29 at 8 pm. Music by Top Ranks and the Juke Box band. Twist competition, and novelty prizes. For reservations and further details ring Ken Winston or Adolf 5740256/7 or 5758870. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome.

Goan Fiesta 88

The Goan Fiesta 88 will be held on Thursday, Oct 13, to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Young Goans Association. It will take place at the Messilah Beach Hotel's

Habiba Ballroom. Music by the Stepping Stones and Hurricane Alley. For details tele: 4813740.

Varca Sporting Centre

Varca Sporting Centre will hold their third annual social evening at the Tent, SAS hotel, on Sept 22 at 8.00 pm. Music will be provided by Top Ranks and Stepping Stones. For reservations and details, contact Roland 2430581 or James 5331940.

At the Continental

The Gardenia, open from 7 am to midnight, offers buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food for dinner on Thursdays and at lunch on Fridays.

At the Hilton

The Darbar offers lunch buffet every Thursday. A la carte for dinner.

At the Sheraton

Enjoy Italian cuisine and live entertainment by the Sienna's Duo at the Riccardo restaurant. Riccardo's is closed for lunch on Fridays.

At the Kuwail Plaza

The Al Dallah coffee shop offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a set menu mini-business lunch. Icecream festival at the International Food Arcade, 4 to 10 pm; light snacks also available; open 10.00 am to 11.00 pm.

At the Bosphorus

Enjoy Turkish cuisine, a la carte, at the Bosphorus restaurant. Open for lunch and dinner every day except Saturday.

The Marco Polo restaurant

offers Italian food, live music and a candlelight atmosphere.

Al Gandoul Grill Garden

open 7 pm to midnight, features a selection of grilled specialties. The Open Garden has a selection of teas, coffees, and juices; Arguilla water pipe available; videos shown on large screen every day. Open every day 7 to 11 pm.

Fish and Chips shop

open from 4 to 11 pm nightly. Take away counter, offers a selection of Arabic sandwiches and snacks, from 4 pm to 11 pm daily.

At the Patisserie

La Patisserie is promoting Kiwi fruit. On offer are Kiwi cakes, meringue, pies, cheesecakes, juices, milkshakes and sundae. Also enjoy freshly baked cakes, pastries and a variety of cold drinks and icecream creations. Open daily from 10.30 am to 10.45 pm. The promotion ends on Sept 16.

At the Kuwail Plaza

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SPORTS

Sailing — KOSA Open Day

K.O.S.A. — the Kuwait Off-shore Sailing Association — will hold an Open Day at Shaab Yacht Club on Friday, Sept 9, from 1400 hours. Anyone

interested in offshore sailing

are invited to attend and enjoy an afternoon of sailing followed by a BBQ. For details contact John Waters or Frank Graham on tele: 5326145 or 2466848.

14th Winners Cup

The YMCA will hold the All Kuwait Open 14th Winners Cup cricket tournament, beginning Sept 16. It will be played on Fridays and holidays at the Ahmadi Governorate ground located behind the Computer Centre. Teams wishing to participate can contact Joe D'Sa. Tel: 3981790, 3-5 pm; 3924659, 5-8 pm. The draw will be held on Friday, Aug 26, at 9 am at the Kuwait Lanka Restaurant, Fahaeel.

Feed the World

Sports Aid '88 calling all runners/walkers to join the worldwide synchronised event to be held in Kuwait on Sunday, Sept 11. Start: 6 pm. Run or walk a minimum of one km or a maximum of 10 km. For details contact 5624111 ext. 751.

PBAK Meeting

The officers of the Philippines Bowlers Association in Kuwait will hold a meeting on Monday, Sept 5, at Far East Restaurant at 7.45 pm sharp. Topics to be discussed include forthcoming PBAK inter-commercial bowling tournament to be held on Sept 9 at 300 Club at 9 am. Revised rules and regulations will be distributed to all team captains. Fees must be settled. All team captains are requested to attend the meeting. For details contact PBAK director Sarah Macarimbang tele: 4843447.

Boy's Own Club

Boy's Own Club will organise a seven-a-side one-day football festival on the holiday declared to mark the Prophet's birthday (Oct 22/23). Interested teams can contact Milagres 3967446 or Joe D'Souza 4813622.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Good Morning
- 9.30 Tales from Around the World: The Golden Gazette — cartoon serial
- 10.15 8 Harat Al Bahar: episode 9, daily serial
- 11.15 Al Raheel: local series, ep. 4, featuring Suad Abdullah, Ghanem Al Saleh, Maryam Al Saleh, Khalid Al Nafisi, Ali Buraiki
- 12.15 Documentary
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.35 World News via Satellite
- 1.30 Summer Clubs
- 2.35 Araq Al Daliyah: Arabic series
- 3.35 Heidi: cartoons serial
- 4.15 Football: replay of Kuwait vs Iran match, played for the 1980 Asian Games
- 7.10 Alwan: presented by Rolah Al Farah
- 8.30 Wa Qalat Al Arab: daily series
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Al Sakiah Tadawar: daily serial
- 10.50 Adam wa Hawa: Arabic feature film, starring: Hussein Sudqi, Laila Murad, Ismael Yaseen, Mary



Laila Murad stars in tonight's Arabic feature film, *Adam wa Hawa*, 10.50 pm on KTV 1.

- Muneeb
- 12.00 News Summary
- 12.05 World News via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Galtar: cartoons
- 6.30 The Craft of the Weaver: "Rugs." Faye Morgan explains the working of a loom and Oates examines the colour and texture of rugs.
- 7.00 Koving Report: weekly roundup of world news and regional events.

- 7.30 Charles-in-Charge: "Discipline." After an argument with a woman, Charles cuts himself off from them.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 Miami Vice: "Down for the Count." Part 2. The Squad step up efforts after a police informer is killed by the mob.
- 9.40 Private Benjamin: "For the Love of Judy." Judy receives unwelcome attention from a soldier and decides to take action against him.
- 10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Hitchcock returns with another spine-chilling tale.
- 10.30 The Equalizer: "Christmas Presence." A six-year-old child's desperate plea for help spoils McCall's plans to spend a quiet Christmas. Starring: Edward Woodward.
- 11.30 News summary/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



The Miami Vice squad steps up efforts to solve a case, 8.40 pm on KTV 2 tonight.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsworld
- 30 Religious Service
- 0100 News Summary followed by From Raj to Rajiv
- 45 Without Strings (ex 26th)
- 0200 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Peoples' Choice
- 30 Science in Action
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0400 World News
- 30 5th and 12th Where Angels Fear to Tread; 19th and 26th Sportsworld
- 45 Reflections
- 50 Waveguide
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Nature Notebook
- 45 Recording of the Week
- 0600 World News
- 30 The Stuarts (ex 26th Has Socialism a Future?)
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 The Cross and the Crescent (ex 26th Every Poem as Epitaph)
- 0800 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 5th and 12th Where Angels Fear to Tread; 19th and 26th Maigudi Days
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Financial News followed by Sports
- 45 Peoples' Choice (ex 19th and

- 26th Sportsworld)
- 1000 News Summary followed by The Stuarts (ex 26th Has Socialism a Future?)
- 30 The Vintage Chart Show
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Health Matters (ex 26th Tech Talk)
- 30 The Ken Bruce Show
- 1200 Radio Newsworld
- 15 Raffles
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Anything Goes (ex 19th and 26th Sportsworld)
- 45 (19th and 26th only) Anything Goes
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
- 45 The Third Policeman (ex 26th T. S. Eliot Poems)
- 1500 Radio Newsworld
- 15 The Stuarts (ex 26th Has Socialism a Future?)
- 45 English Songsmiths (ex 19th)
- 1600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 5th and 12th Whither Wisdom; 19th and 26th Americans in Europe
- 30 Lyrics and Lyricists (ex 5th The A-Z of Hollywood)
- 45 The World Today
- 1700 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Booktown (ex 19th and 26th New Music)
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 World News
- 30 Multitrack 1: Top 20 (ex 5th Prom Concert)
- 1900 Outlook, opening with News Summary (ex 5th Prom Concert)
- 30 Stock Market Report
- 45 Peoples' Choice (ex 19th and 26th Sportsworld)
- 2000 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary

FM Services

- 0800 Easy Listening
- 0830 News
- 0840 Easy Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1300 Easy Listening
- 1330 News
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Easy Listening
- 1700 Latin American Hour
- 1800 Pops
- 1900 Heller Skelter
- 2000 Pops
- 2130 News
- 2145 Pops
- 2200 Jazz Sound
- 2300 Easy Listening
- 2400 Instrumental Music
- 0200 Closedown

Urdu

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Baitera Qauli
- 1916 Programme Preview
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Islamiyat: Daur-e-Hazir
- 2000 News
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Hamsa Mehman
- 2100 Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
- Al Salem Pharmacy
- nr. Sheraton, Fahad Al Salem St.
- Al Mutawa Pharmacy
- Awkal Bldg., Hilali St.
- Hawalli and Nagra
- Al Nasser Pharmacy
- Tunis St., Hawalli
- Salmiya and Rumethiya
- Al Shifa Pharmacy
- Anjari Complex, Salem Al Mubarak St.
- Fahaeel and Ahmadi
- Al Sadat Pharmacy
- Makkah St., Fheel
- Farwanja
- Al Munawar Pharmacy
- South Souk St.
- Jahra
- Al Noor Pharmacy
- Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matalafi St.

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus
- Deadly Friend
- Starring: Christi Swanson
- Al Salmiya
- Action Jackson
- Starring: Carol Wades
- Al Hamra
- Darb Al Jad'an (Arabic)
- Starring: Imaan, Yusuf Shaban
- Drive-in
- Al Police Al Nisai (Arabic)
- Starring: Iham Shahin, Hala Sudqi, Dalal Abdulaziz
- Al Firdos
- Shor (Hindi)
- Starring: Manoj Kumar, Jaya Bhaduri
- Fahaeel Open-Air
- Silsila (Hindi)
- Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Rekha
- Al Fahaeel
- Burglar
- Al Jahra
- Volunteers
- Granada
- The New Kids
- Salaibkhat
- Wet Gold
- Al Jeeb
- Lakhi Badhu (Bengali)
- Ahmadi Drive-in
- Strike Commando

PRAYERS

- Fajr 4.07 am
- Zuhr 11.47
- Asr 3.19 pm
- Maghreb 6.04
- Isha 7.23

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WHENEVER you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth — Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Scottish writer (1859-1930).

Sino-Soviet talks

Progress, but no breakthrough

By Guy Dinmore

BEIJING, (Reuters): Sino-Soviet talks this week on Kampuchea made progress but apparently no breakthrough in settling the 10-year-old conflict or normalising relations between Beijing and Moscow, diplomats said on Friday.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev said shortly before leaving Beijing that he was very satisfied with the week-long negotiations.

For the Chinese, Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei said the meetings were significant.

Both sides said the unprecedented talks helped mutual understanding but that despite finding common ground, differences remained.

Sources close to the talks and China pressed the Soviet Union to get its ally Vietnam out of Kampuchea, while Moscow said China's support for the Khmer Rouge guerrillas was an obstacle to an early withdrawal.

Discuss

The only concrete result of the talks disclosed to reporters was the intention of Soviet and Chinese foreign ministers to discuss Kampuchea when they hold their annual meeting at the United Nations in New York later this month.

A Soviet source said Rogachev skipped a Thursday banquet hosted for him by the Soviet embassy for a last round of unscheduled talks with Tian. A tired-looking Rogachev told reporters he wanted to sleep and had worked until 5:30 am.

"Yes, there was some progress but no breakthrough," a Western diplomat commented after analysing what he described as positive but cautious statements made by both sides.

A Vietnamese diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said the talks were the beginning of a Sino-Soviet rapprochement but there were still many differences. "We are optimistic. The process for a Kampuchean settlement has been set in motion," he commented.

The official repeated Vietnam's position that it would

withdraw its troops from Kampuchea in 1990. If a political settlement was reached then Hanoi could pull out in 1989.

Rogachev said he hoped Vietnam would complete its withdrawal next year. He said Moscow was in regular contact with the Vietnamese but declined to comment on how the Soviet Union would approach its ally.

Vietnam, which is heavily dependent on Soviet military and financial aid, invaded Kampuchea in 1978 to oust the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge which stand accused of genocide during their four-year rule.

Rogachev said Moscow proposed that Indonesia hold as soon as possible "a second bogor" — a reference to July's unprecedented meeting of the four warring Kampuchean factions and Vietnam.

The Vietnamese diplomat said Hanoi favoured a second meeting. "The next logical step is a meeting between the Soviets and Vietnam," an Asian diplomat said. "They will not just put pressure on Vietnam, which is a very independent minded country, but also use encouragement."

Progress

"Progress was made but not enough to warrant a joint communiqué or a summit," another Asian diplomat commented.

China has rebuffed several offers of a summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, saying Moscow must first "urge" Vietnam to withdraw its estimated 100,000 troops from Kampuchea.

Sino-Soviet trade and cultural exchanges have grown rapidly in recent years but relations between the ruling communist parties have not been normalised since the rift of the 1960s.

The last top-level Sino-Soviet summit was in 1959 when Mao Tse-tung met Nikita Khrushchev.

A Soviet source said there was "a good chance" that Chinese and Soviet foreign ministers would meet outside the United Nations next year to prepare a summit between Gorbachev and Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang.

Rains simply swept everything over the edge

Sudan in total mess after flood disaster

By Philip Williams

KHARTOUM, Sudan, (UPI): Even in the best of times, Sudan is an unlovely mess. This is far from the best of times.

"The rain simply swept everything over the edge," said a Western diplomat of the disastrous August floods. "It is difficult to see how Sudan can get through this crisis without long-term political consequences."

"The airline doesn't work any more," said an airport taxi driver. "It's like Sudan. It doesn't work either."

That was true even before the rains of Aug 4 which in one night dumped more water onto a country paralyzed by drought than fell on Africa's largest and arguably poorest nation in the whole of 1987.

Khartoum streets simply melted away. An estimated one million people were left destitute and homeless in the capital alone. At least 106,000 houses, some little more than mud-brick huts and most made of mud-brick, dissolved or collapsed under tons of water and waves of stinking sludge.

More than 70 people died, dozens of them electrocuted as power lines collapsed into the

water. At least 220 were injured. The toll continues to rise.

But the floods are only the last straw of a nationwide mess that is feeding growing anger and desperation among normally phlegmatic Sudanese, incredulous at the chaos which surrounds them.

For years Sudan has been wracked by a civil war — one of Africa's most bitter — between the south's black, largely Christian peoples and the north's Arab Muslims.

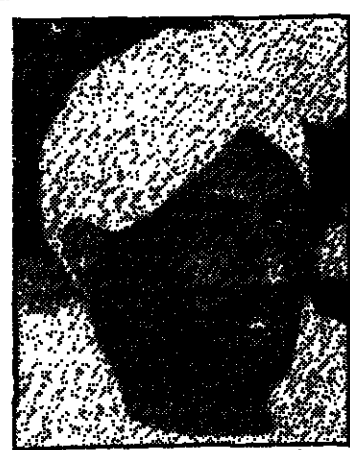
The drought had spread famine or near famine throughout the land.

The country was broke. Power, telephone and communications systems were on the brink of collapse. Railways were at a standstill. Offices and factories worked only half a day because there was no public transportation.

Sudan Airways couldn't meet its scheduled flight days, let alone scheduled flight times.

The foreign debt was an impossible \$1.2 billion. If Sudan tried, which it has not, it could not meet repayments, which would be more than 150 per cent of its annual foreign exchange earnings.

Even before the floods the huge black market for hard



Sadiq Al Mahdi

currency was driving the value of the Sudanese pound down daily. "Factories were grinding to a halt for want of machine parts."

"This disaster could not have at a worse time," said a senior aid worker. "It has exposed how completely inadequate the government structure is."

The beleaguered Sudanese government complained bitterly about Western coverage of the crisis and blamed foreign media for allegations of corruption and favouritism in its handling of the flood crisis.

But Prime Minister Sadiq Al

Mahdi and his colleagues have been attacked at least as hard by the country's own, startlingly independent Arabic newspapers.

Now the city is faced with a massive health headache. Cholera, typhus and measles stalk 700,000 already emaciated black refugees who fled civil war fighting in the south for two dozen squalid shanty towns fringing Muslim, Arabic-speaking Khartoum.

Huge swaths of the northern suburbs were turned into lakes of fetid water mixed with raw sewage from shattered pipes, all cooked to a festering, tepid stew by the sun.

Paralysis

After 10 days of near-complete paralysis, the government and Army-run relief effort began to trickle out help, first in the better-off suburban areas and then, eventually, to the desperate southern shanty dwellers. Public anger at the tardiness of the emergency operation was intense.

Stones were hurled at Sadiq, who maintained an astonishingly low profile throughout the crisis and provoked speculation about his grip on power, when he attempted to visit one Omdurman disaster site.

Foreign aid funds, tents, food and drugs poured into Khartoum by air, more than 200 relief flights, most from "brother" Arab states. But "this is all a drop in the ocean compared with our needs," said a senior member of parliament. Aid workers estimated only 10 per cent of the food, medical and housing needs of the 700,000 desperately poor southerners — marooned under plastic bags, curtains and tablecloths on high-ground islands amid the filth — could possibly be met by the relief operation, which will last months if enough international money is forthcoming.

Problem

"The government tried for two years to pretend that the southern refugees didn't exist," one Sudanese expert said. "Now at least it must acknowledge that it has a problem with them."

And there is still more.

On top of a 5-year-old civil war, drought, destitute refugees and a deluge of mud and water, a fifth plague of Biblical proportions will strike hapless Sudan within 30 days — locusts.

Countless billions of desert locust larvae carpet the more fertile, millet-growing areas of the dry, western provinces of Darfur

and Kordofan.

Massive swarms of adult insects — 41 swarms, covering thousands of square miles (kms) — invaded Sudan from Chad. The larvae they left behind are hatching into "hoppers," which will feed on the millet shoots until, 30 days after hatching, they turn into voracious adults and begin eating everything that grows.

Experts say past experience shows they will devastate their way across central Sudan, wreak havoc in the key, central Gezira irrigated food growing areas, then settle to multiply again on traditional breeding grounds on the Red Sea coast of northern Ethiopia.

"They are going to raise cattle and do a lot of damage," said an agricultural expert in Khartoum. "Nothing can be done to prevent them swarming and then, when they are gone, the only question is how big the swarms are going to be."

Campaign

The United States Agency for International Development is putting up two-thirds of the \$3.7 million needed for an eradication campaign of aerial spraying, but admits the programme can only ameliorate the problem, not eliminate it.

UN successes offset by trouble in Gulf talks deadlock

By Victoria Graham

GENEVA, (AP): For UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the past two weeks have been a string of heavy successes, tempered by reminders of UN limitations and its near insolvency.

The United Nations, it seemed, after being dismissed for years by the West as useless and hopelessly biased, was on a winning streak.

There was the Iran-Iraq war ceasefire, direct talks between Iran and Iraq, talks about divided Cyprus, acceptance of a UN peace plan for the Western Sahara, and a UN role foreseen in southern Africa and Kampuchea.

There was even word that sales were up for UN T-shirts, presumably another sign of the organization's new popularity.

Then, in a reminder of reality and the force of regional rivalry, there was the deadlock this week in the current Iran-Iraq peace talks after eight days. After eight years of hostilities, however, few had expected the belligerents to shake hands and agree in Geneva.

Perez de Cuellar departed Thursday for Lisbon after appointing Sweden's ambassador to the United Nations in New York to continue the difficult negotiations.

Victory

Meanwhile, the Afghan government called for new, four-sided talks on the UN mediated Afghan accord, hailed as a UN victory when the agreement was signed in April, after six years of talks.

The Soviet Union said this week it sent jet fighters back into

the country to help the Army fight US-backed rebels. The US government said Moscow was violating the accord.

But if all goes well and a larger UN role is required to monitor regional political settlements, the United Nations will not be able to fund its Gulf peace-keeping operation and others.

The problem is that members, especially the United States, do not pay their back contributions.

The organization is owed more than \$600 million in arrears. The United States alone owes more than \$467 million to the regular budget and another \$70 million to peacekeeping operations.

"Funding is a huge problem," UN spokesman Francois Giulani told reporters in Geneva this week. He said the organization was going broke and being forced to use the money intended for October salaries to pay for the UN peacekeepers in Iran and Iraq.

Funding

But diplomats say they expect the United States and other members, as in past budget crises, to come up with the funding to keep the organization and its peacekeeping operations afloat.

As for the new effectiveness of the world body, UN diplomats say the 159-member world organization is only as strong and effective as the will of its member states.

It especially has benefited by the increased co-operation among the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France.

An Afghan accord was possi-

ble, they emphasize, because of the improved climate in East-West relations and the decision of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to cut Soviet losses and withdraw.

When the time was right and nations saw their best interests in the settlement of regional conflict, the UN was ready with a plan that had been under patient preparation for years.

"We must be patient," Perez de Cuellar said once again. Thursday when questioned about lack of progress in the Iran-Iraq talks.

"These problems are very difficult and complicated. They cannot be solved overnight. Remember how long the Afghanistan talks went on."

Encouraging

But he admitted he was frustrated by the slow pace and that he had been very busy in Geneva for October salaries to pay for the UN peacekeepers in Iran and Iraq.

Nonetheless, the UN scorecard has been encouraging.

After a year of resisting a UN peace plan, resolution 598, Iran abruptly accepted it and sought an immediate ceasefire. Separate talks with Iran and Iraq opened in New York July 18 on setting up a ceasefire.

On Aug 8, Perez de Cuellar announced agreement and proclaimed a ceasefire to take effect later in the month. On Aug 20, it went into effect.

On Aug 24, the first meeting in three years were held between Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders under UN auspices, and they agreed to meet again in New York to discuss the divided island.

On Aug 25, direct Iran-Iraq peace talks began in Geneva between the two foreign ministers.

Brazil's constitution may affect economy

By Roger Atwood

RIO DE JANEIRO, (Reuters): Lawmakers hailed Brazil's new constitution, approved on Friday, as a giant step towards consolidating democracy, but political analysts said it could have a dire effect on the economy.

Members of the 559-member constituent assembly wept with joy and joined hands to sing the national anthem as they finished the boldly reformist new constitution.

They said the new charter would change the face of Brazil and help consolidate its young democracy after the country emerged from 21 years of military rule in 1985.

"Brazil, with a new constitution, is a new country. The end of the assembly's work also marks the end of the political transition (to democracy)," assembly President Ulysses Guimarães said in an emotion-charged speech.

But amid the euphoria, questions remained about the constitution's effects on Brazil's economy once the assembly promulgates it and puts it into effect on Sept 23 after 19 months of often harsh debate.

Controversial

One of its most controversial clauses includes a 12 per cent cap on real annual interest rates and makes creditors who charge more than that punishable for "the crime of usury."

Such rates are now around 20 per cent, though nominal interest rates on an annual basis are topping 1,000 per cent.

"If the interest rate limit is not amended in some way, it will cause hyper-inflation and could wreck the economy," said prominent political scientist Helio Jaguaribe.

The assembly too often enacted well-intentioned measures without taking into account their real effect on the economy," Jaguaribe said.

Among the reform clauses in

the new constitution is one reducing the voting age to 16, another giving workers the right to a six-hour work day, and one barring all press and artistic censorship.

It also extends the right to strike to all workers, including those in essential services like doctors and electrical workers.

Attention

But the 12 per cent limit on interest rates won the most attention, and the most criticism, from political commentators and officials of President Jose Sarney's government.

Finance Minister Malton Nobrega said the limit could make it harder for Brazil, burdened with a \$121 billion foreign debt, to win new loans from overseas creditors.

But he admitted that the interest rate cap's full effect on the economy would be impossible to gauge until congress, now in recess as its members wrote the new constitution, worked out its details in general legislation.

The influential Rio daily O Globo accused lawmakers of "cheap demagoguery" by enacting the 12 per cent limit, saying in an editorial that it would "make all Brazil suffer."

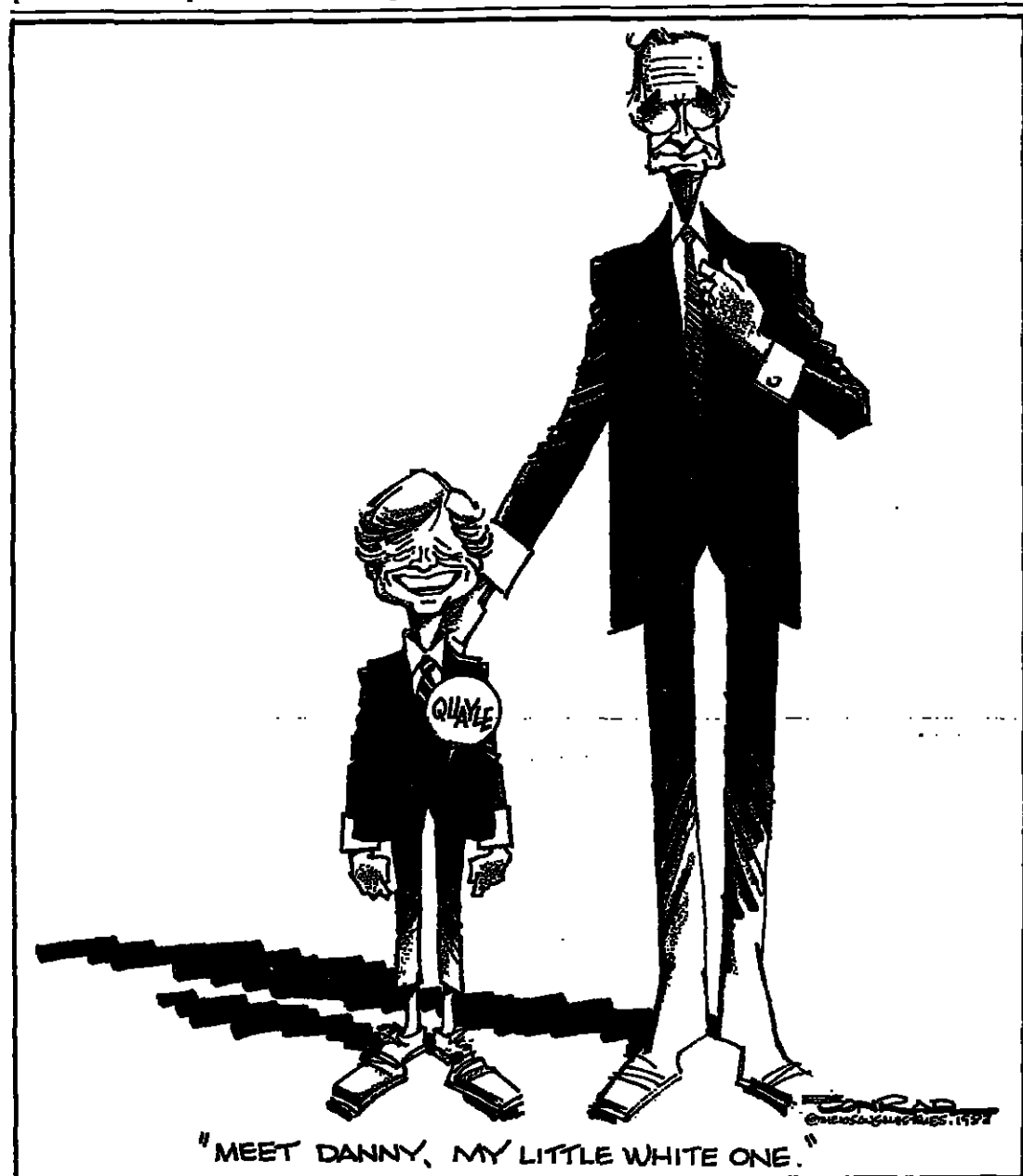
Amnesty

The assembly also voted to include a sweeping debt amnesty for thousands of small borrowers who took out loans during two successive anti-inflation drives in 1986 and 1987.

Those borrowers saw their financial fortunes ruined as inflation and interest rates soared to an annualised rate of about 700 per cent early this year.

Sarney had warned the lawmakers that the amnesty would cost the already-strapped treasury about \$3 billion, and pleaded with them to reject it.

Political commentators said the amnesty would damage the economy by rewarding unwise investors, and accused assembly members of enacting the amnesty as a political sop to voters before municipal elections in November.



Bush turns tiger in the campaign

By Arthur Spiegelman

DETROIT, (Reuters): Vice-President George Bush is waging psychological warfare day after day against his Democratic rival for the presidency, Michael Dukakis, with many of his attacks clearly getting under the Massachusetts governor's skin.

The "Mr Nice Guy" of American politics has turned tiger on the campaign trail.

Bush, 64, was supposed to be "the wimp" or "weakling" in the presidential campaign.

Living for eight years in the shadow of Ronald Reagan, the well-bred often inarticulate Bush

has now emerged as a fighter in his own right.

Since wrapping up the Republican presidential nomination two weeks ago, he has been criss-crossing the country making speeches with one major aim — raise public doubts about the relatively unknown Dukakis' capacity to be president.

Afford

He tells audiences that America cannot afford to elect "another liberal governor coming out of nowhere," a reference to Jimmy Carter, a president whose name still chills many voters.

The journalists accompanying

Bush no longer joke about Bush's celebrated "wimp factor" but instead talk about the "mean factor."

Bush paints himself as strong, patriotic and caring and draws an unflattering picture of Dukakis as weak, appeasing and dangerous in the hard world of international politics. To audiences at Army bases and ex-servicemen's clubs, he says Dukakis has opposed every weapon system since the sling shot.

Bush has even made the pledge of allegiance to the US flag a political issue. He accuses Dukakis of foolishly vetoing a bill that would have ordered teachers in Massachusetts to lead their classes in the pledge.

"I am not questioning his patriotism, I'm questioning his judgment," Bush says.

Doubts

The idea is to raise enough doubts about Dukakis' character, experience and ability to win the votes of the millions of Democrats who trooped to the polls and voted Reagan into office for two terms.

They are called the "Reagan Democrats" and they could hold the key to who wins the White House on Nov 8.

They are a major reason why Bush has gone on the offensive on the campaign trail.

But another reason might be that his surprise choice of right-wing Indiana Senator Dan Quayle as his running mate has backfired in the short term.

Normally in a presidential election it is the vice-presidential candidate who plays "hatchetman" and attacks the opposition's presidential candidate.

Quayle is too bogged down answering questions about his own military record and background to be of much help to Bush at the moment.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1514 — Selim I of Turkey enters Tabriz, Persia.
- 1590 — Duke of Parma, advancing from the Netherlands, forces France's King Henry IV to lift siege of Paris in Catholic League war.
- 1658 — Dutch take Jaffnapatam, last Portuguese possession in Ceylon.
- 1698 — New East India Company is granted charter by King William III of England; Peter the Great executes the Streltsy rebels in Russia and imposes tax on beards.
- 1789 — Turkey declares war on France.
- 1860 — Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia and Turkey sign treaty to restore order in Syria after massacre of Christians by Druses.
- 1864 — Combined British, French and Dutch fleets attack Japan in Shimonoeko Straits in reprisal for closing ports and expelling foreigners.
- 1905 — Treaty of Portsmouth (New Hampshire in USA), with US President Theodore Roosevelt mediating, ends Russo-Japanese War.
- 1939 — United States proclaims neutrality in World War II.
- 1972 — Eleven Israeli Olympic athletes, four Palestinian commandos and a West German policeman are killed in a 24-hour gun battle at Munich Airport.
- 1977 — Gunmen in West Germany kidnap prominent German industrialist Hanns-Martin Schleyer and kill four of his bodyguards.
- 1986 — Four gunmen holding hijacked Pan Am jet in Pakistan open fire on passengers without warning, and witnesses say at least 100 people are gunned down.
- 1987 — Israeli jets blast Palestinian commando bases near Sidon, killing 41 people and wounding 60.

Violence in Northern Ireland

Hopes for peace fade

By Ralph Boulton

BELFAST, (Reuters): The "god-fathers" of Belfast's guerrilla gun-squads are mustering forces for battle as hopes for peace here fade amid fresh bomb attacks and shootings in Northern Ireland.

Purchase of new land to extend the Irish Republican Army's "heroes' corner" in the Catholic Milltown cemetery this year has spawned a grim humour among Republican veterans who feel new sacrifices could loom in their 20-year struggle to oust Britain from the province.

On the other side of the sectarian divide, Protestant paramilitary groups prepared for a Republican backlash after the killing of three IRA guerrillas by British commandos this week.

"We fear the British will pull out. If they do, we can't push the IRA out of Ireland but we can fight for our land," said the godfather of one of the three main Protestant groups. "Godfather" is a name commonly used here to describe full-time paramilitary leaders who plan attacks and enforce internal discipline.

Guns

"There's a hell of a lot of guns floating around at the moment, on both sides. We're better armed than ever and it's a fruitful year for recruits," the Protestant godfather told Reuters at his home.

Two or three godfathers dominate the Protestant paramilitary scene while the IRA has some 30 overseeing local

brigades and manning its central military council.

Two Protestant gunmen killed memories of the bloodiest days of the 1970s recently, killing three Catholics in a random gun attack on Belfast's Avenue Bar. A brutal series of tit-for-tat killings followed, some by young "hoods" who acquired guns and launched lone missions without permission from the godfathers.

The IRA, who see themselves as guardians of the minority Catholic population, shot dead two 60-year-old Protestant workers as punishment for working a contract for the Army.

"It seems to be back to the guns. When the IRA hits out, they get it back," the Protestant godfather told Reuters. His home, set in a terrace of identical two-storey, redbrick houses, would blend into the scenery of any British city.

Danger

Inside the living room, only a video screen monitoring passing traffic on the narrow street outside recalls the lingering danger of an IRA hit-squad. Here, orders are issued, names listed, plans laid.

"I suppose I'm at the top of a couple of death lists, at least," he smiles, shrugging his shoulders. Godfathers frequently fall prey to the "other side" or internal enemies. Seamus Mallon, deputy head of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and a spokesman for moderate Catholic opinion, sees "a brutality and perversity" about the Protestant groups.

"They have mostly hit

innocent Catholics who have nothing to do with the troubles. It's not just the IRA," he told Reuters.

The loyalist paramilitaries have long relied on simple pump-action shotguns, though a recent Army haul of machine guns, rifles and rockets confirms their arsenals are growing.

However, security experts see the main loyalist groups — the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) and Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) — as no match for the Republican Army.

Armoury

The IRA commands a devastating armoury for guerrilla actions in open country as well as the city against British soldiers, police and Protestant opponents. London believes it recently received 1,000 Kalashnikov rifles, surface-to-air missiles, heavy machine guns and explosives, possibly from Libya.

The idea is to keep the British guessing how, where and what will strike next, where and what will be the IRA's next move. A Republican official said.

But the IRA gunmen have had setbacks, losing almost 30 gunmen over two years in clashes with security forces. Forty soldiers and police have been killed this year in a Republican campaign that has rocked Northern Ireland cities and spread to British targets abroad.

Loyalist guerrillas lead normal home lives. Police charged 31 loyalists with murder or attempted murder last year.

One of the most polluted cities of Asia Taipei choking on its own prosperity

By Andrew Quinn

TAIPEI, (Reuters): Taipei, Asia's latest boomtown, is choking on its own prosperity. The capital of Taiwan is disappearing into a cloud of dark exhaust fumes as wealthy residents, who have helped turn the island into the world's 13th-ranked trading nation, join a mad rush to buy cars.

Traffic density in Taipei is 10 times that of the US traffic blackspot, Los Angeles, and the government predicts the number of cars in the city will double over the next 10 years.

The problem has become a political time bomb as frustrated residents blame the Nationalist government for the state of the city, among the most polluted in Asia.

"Anyone who can figure out a way to fix Taipei's traffic should be made president," one Taipei taxi driver raged as his car idled in the rush-hour.

Taipei, with a population of 2.5 million, has about 360,000 cars and trucks competing for road space with almost half a million motorcycles.

Over the past 20 years, Taipei has changed from a peaceful backwater into a hub of international trade.

Showcase

But it is a poor showcase for a country of 20 million people which has amassed more than 70 billion US dollars in foreign exchange reserves, the world's second largest after those of Japan.

Hemmed in by hills that trap the heat and pollution, it boasts few architectural attractions. Its grey concrete buildings are uniformly low-rise because of the constant risk of earthquakes. There are few parks or open spaces.

The Nationalist government set up its headquarters in Taipei in 1949 after fleeing from China. It became a pleasant city planted with flowering shrubs and criss-crossed by broad, avenues shaded by trees.

But explosive economic growth in the 1960s and 70s turned Taipei into a warren of small alleys filled haphazardly

The capital of Taiwan is disappearing into a cloud of dark exhaust fumes as the wealthy residents of this Asian boomtown join a mad rush to buy cars.

with houses, factories, shops and restaurants.

Modern office blocks, huge department stores and fashionable restaurants — built on land that only a few years ago was planted with rice — are just starting to change the character of the city.

But traffic remains a stubborn problem. Narrow lanes, perfect for bicycles, rickshaws and ox-carts, are now jammed by parked cars.

"Nobody ever expected that Taipei would become such a rich place so quickly," said Peng Chih-Yuan, director of the National Federation of Professional Drivers.

"In the short-term, the government has no plan at all."

Motorcycle riders scatter pedestrians by driving on the sidewalks. More than 40,000 taxis jostle and shove like race-

horses in a fight for passengers. Taipei's battered public buses career through red lights with impunity.

City planners and government officials throw up their hands in despair at the scope of the problem.

"This is a democratic country. We just cannot tell people not to buy cars," said C. J. Chang, director of the Institute of Transportation at Taiwan's Ministry of Communications. "The traffic problem is inevitable."

Plans have been made for a modern subway and elevated train network that will whisk Taipei commuters from one stop to another in air-conditioned comfort. But work on the project forecast to cost the equivalent of nine billion US dollars, is not due to start until 1990.

In a belated response to ris-

ing public anger, the Nationalists last month assigned one of their brightest young stars to the post of city mayor.

Wu Poh-Hsiung immediately shredded plans to add another 2,000 parking spaces in downtown areas, saying at least 80,000 more spaces were needed.

He employed a small army of traffic wardens to slap parking tickets on cars which routinely double and triple park on Taipei's busiest roads.

Peng's federation has organised brigades of volunteer off-duty taxi drivers who take to the streets armed with only a whistle during rush hours. Surprisingly, people seem to obey the directions of the orange-hatted volunteers.

"Everyone wants the traffic situation to improve, but nobody wanted to take the first step," Peng said.



Taipei's crowded roadways are going to get worse before they get better. The traffic density in the city is ten times greater than Los Angeles.

Paris 'poop-scoopers' go where others fear to tread

The French have found an efficient way of dealing with the mess that thousands of dogs leave behind on the smart boulevards of Paris. About 100 young riders clad in smart green and white uniforms, mounted on motorbikes with a vacuum cleaner tour the capital scooping up the offending mess.

By Michela Wong

PARIS, (Reuters): Every day in Paris between 150,000 and 200,000 dogs answer nature's call on the streets of the capital.

While locals learn to set a zig-zag course and avoid the mess littering the pavements, less wary tourists soon find themselves leaving a trail of pungent footprints in their wake.

"I've never seen so much dog poop. I seem to spend all my time wiping my shoes," said English tourist Sheila Cane, echoing a common complaint.

This is where the men and women of "Trottoirnet" (literally clean pavement) come in. Their task is to clear the streets of the canine calling cards.

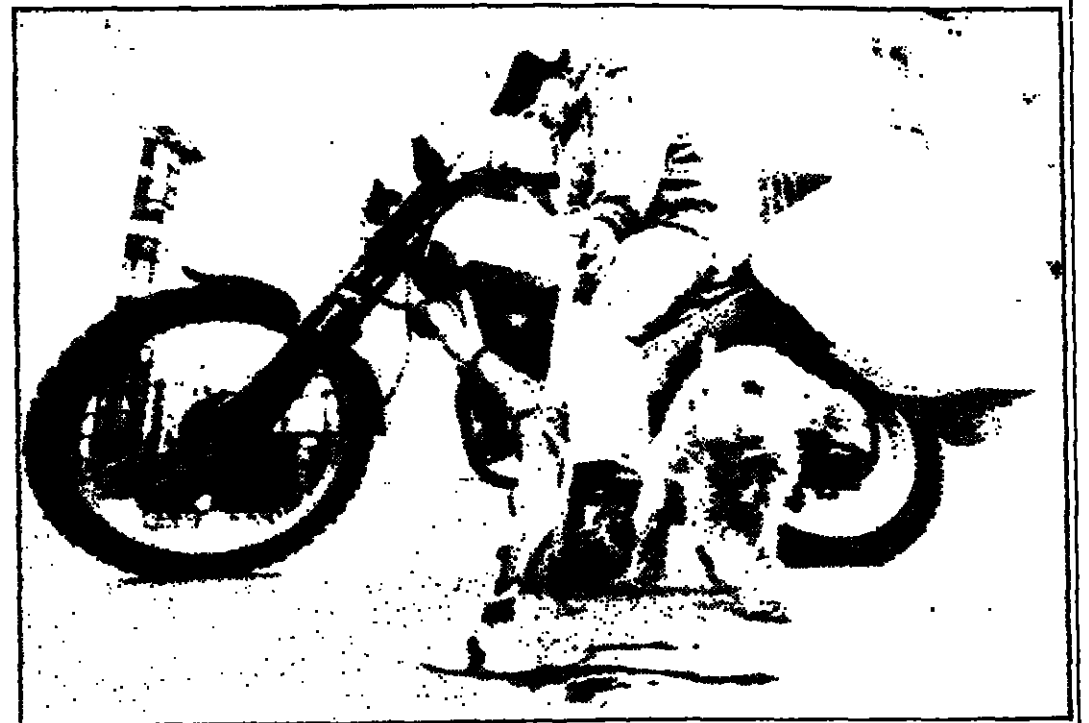
About 100 young riders, clad in smart green and white uniforms and mounted on a cross between a motorbike and a vacuum cleaner, tour the capital in a determined search for droppings.

Once spotted, their sophisticated "poop-scoopers" suck up the offending item. The excrement travels up a long hose into a disinfection tank where it is sterilised before being emptied into the city sewers at the end of the day.

"It's very hard work, cleaning up dog mess isn't child's play," says Eric Douarche, head of one of the capital's three collecting depots, almost exclusively staffed by men and women in their early twenties.

Estimates He estimates that each one of his riders collects between 400-600 dog messes a day, working out at a colossal three tonnes per collector per year.

Paris' city hall currently spends two per cent of its total cleaning budget on its contract with Trottoirnet and the per-



A Parisien 'poop-scooper' on a motorbike collects dog mess in central Paris as a mutt watches on. More than 80 young riders tour the capital with this sophisticated piece of equipment.

live together buy a dog first, then later they have a baby... and there are so many old people in Paris who require company," he said.

Few houses or flats in central Paris come with gardens and many parks do not allow dogs. Combine this with the fact that letting your animal foul the streets is not considered a fineable offence and the need for a systematic clean-up operation becomes clear.

But doesn't working as an excellent collector pose some problems for Paris' image-conscious youth? How does poop-scooping gel with trying to be the most "branché" (trendy) guy in town?

"Well, at the start the motor-

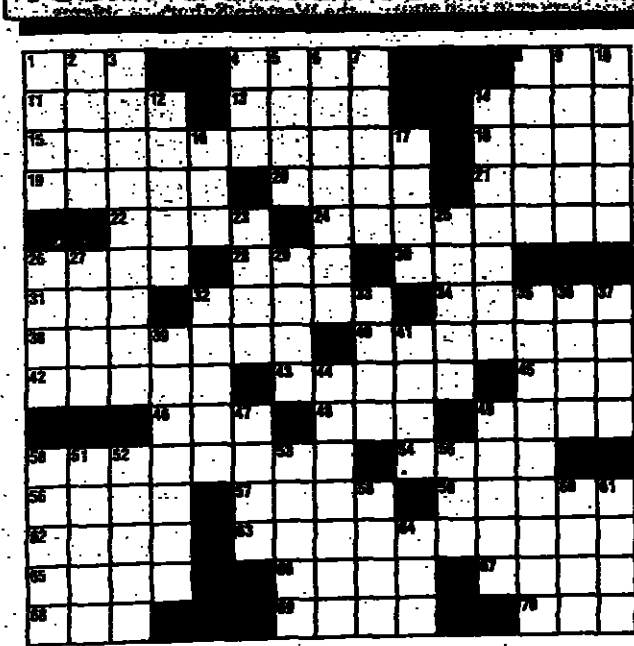
bikes were rather primitive, they used a system of brushes which was very smelly and dirty and gave the job a bad name," said Douarche.

"But now with this new vacuum method it's totally hygienic and we find the job's image has improved."

Douarche says most of "Trottoirnet" are picked for their positive approach to the job in hand.

"We make the right psychological approach a point of honour during the interview." But he admits: "I'm sure there are some who don't tell their girlfriends or boyfriends what they do for a living... Certainly collecting dog mess isn't for everybody."

TODAY'S CROSSWORDS



- ACROSS**
- List ender
 - Ruminant
 - New Deal agcy.
 - Buenos
 - "Rule Britannia" composer
 - False god
 - Resolute
 - Site of exile
 - City in S Turkey
 - Proboscis
 - Aft
 - Italy's major city
 - Can be endured
 - Mosel feeder
 - Length measure
 - One kind of race
 - Grampus
 - Fills to repletion
 - Seed coat
 - Acute
 - Son of Agamemnon
 - Doggie catcher
 - Very bitter
 - Feminine suffix
 - E.B. White's Charlotte, for one
 - Luminox
 - Hops kiln
 - Embarrassed
 - Biblical land
 - Discomfort
 - Strawberry's turf
 - Facing the pitcher
 - Heraldic wreath
 - Game for fingers
 - Social events
 - Linden tree
 - Poet Teasdale
 - Concorde, for short
 - Pierre's State: Abbr.
- DOWN**
- Islandic epic
 - Made duplicate scores
 - Falls
 - Grand Coulee, for one
 - Green land
 - Exalt
 - Dodger great
 - Biblical spy
 - Conspiracy
 - Irish county
 - Spanish gentleman
 - Scolds
 - 16 Aries
 - Expensive
 - Amo, —, amat
 - Assessed
 - Blamish
 - Water buffalo
 - Virginia willow
 - Pry
 - Marsh bird
 - Packet
 - Hardy less
 - Helper: Abbr.
 - Ancient ascetics
 - Pierdful
 - Held together
 - A golden vision
 - Exalt
 - Pledges
 - Notices
 - Fabled runners
 - Israeli port
 - Photographs
 - Vegas
 - China, Korea, etc.
 - Condor's home: Var.
 - Despot
 - Wapiti

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

NEVER ASKS EVER
ORONO SHIP WRO
VICTORHUGO ICON
AGE MEET TALESE
HEAR PLAY
SNERD BEERBOHM
NOUN TOTS RHEA
ONER ABRAS OAST
NAVY NAIL NISH
AROMATIC NOTRE
ILEY SONE
KAHLIL SHOE SET
ABEL OSCARWILDE
LORE PEARL ACAGE
EWER EARP YEMEN

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
SHIELD YOUR TENACE

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
 ♠ K 6 2
 ♥ Q 10 7 3
 ♦ 7 5 4
 ♣ K J 3

WEST
 ♠ A Q 10 9 7 5
 ♥ A 5
 ♦ K 10 3
 ♣ 10 9 7

EAST
 ♠ J 8 4 3
 ♥ J 3
 ♦ J 9 8 2
 ♣ Q 8 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ Void
 ♥ A K 9 8 6 4 2
 ♦ A Q 6
 ♣ A 6 2

The bidding:
 West North East South
 2♣ Pass 4♠ 5♥
 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

If a play you would dearly like to make rates to fail because of the bidding or lead, see if there are any options available. South made good use of that principle to land a difficult game.

With the vulnerability in his favor, East wasted no time in making it as difficult as possible for his opponents to enter the auction by boosting his partner's weak two-bid to game. However, South was just too strong to be kept out of the

auction. North realized that his partner was bidding under pressure, so he wisely stayed out of the auction.

West led the ten of clubs, and declarer was delighted with his prospects. In the light of the opening lead, it was probable that the club finesse would fail, but the bidding suggested that the diamond finesse would succeed. Another implication of the opening lead was that West held the ace of spades, so declarer found a way to ensure his contract even if the diamond finesse were doomed to failure.

The opening lead was ducked all around, and the club continuation was won in dummy. After ruffing a spade, declarer led a trump to the queen, collecting both outstanding trumps, and ruffed another spade. He completed his groundwork by cashing the ace of clubs, then crossed to the table with a trump to lead the king of spades. When East played low, declarer did not ruff, but discarded a diamond instead!

That simple maneuver left West on lead with a choice of losing options. Any black card would allow declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the queen of diamonds from hand; and a diamond would be into declarer's major tenace, assuring no loser in that suit.

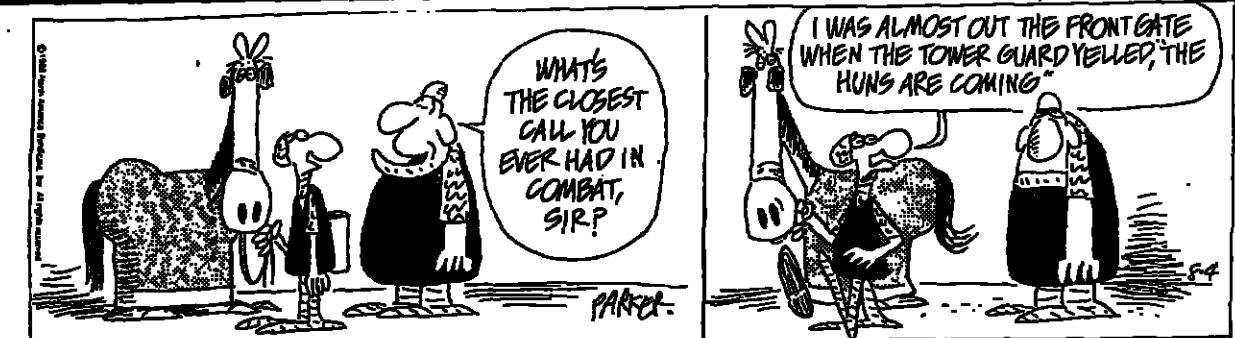
HONEST ED'S

5/16

"I wouldn't sell this piece of junk to my worst enemy."

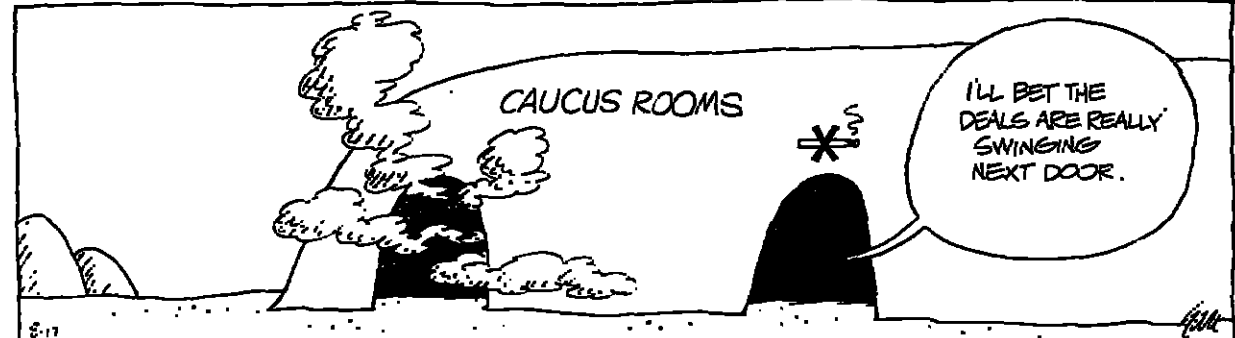
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**

Do not blame others for what is really your fault, and well you know it. You should try to make yourself a little more approachable. Do not ask for something you know you have not earned. Be confident.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should not allow some personal matter to become too predominant. Do not permit another person's bad mood to upset you. Try to ensure that you get good value for money. Be moderate.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

You are rather liable to make the wrong decision and should weigh up the alternatives very carefully. There is no time to waste. Do not become involved in a situation that is really of no concern to you. Be respectful.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)

The difficulties are somewhat greater than you anticipated but nothing you cannot cope with. You should not rely too much on your charm and persuasion. Do not allow your affairs to get too far into arrears. Be more frugal.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Now is the time to take the initiative but make sure you have made all the necessary preparations. Show your sympathy for a friend who is having a hard time. Try not to attract undue attention to yourself. Be sincere.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You are rather liable to get into a muddle and should take counter-measures. Make sure you do not break any speed limits and look behind you. Do not expect others to look after you. Be sincere.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You should not do anything that might turn out to have been rash. You will have some personal success but must not let it go to your head. Avoid being jealous, it will not change anything. Be sensible.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Something you are undertaking at work is looking quite promising. You should make sure you do not do anything impetuous or impromptu. You should take something you have heard with a pinch or two of salt. Be cordial.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will find it easier to maintain harmony with your partner. Your sweet tooth should not be allowed to predominate. You would do well to exercise a little more restraint. Be tolerant.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You will be a little unsure of yourself initially but will soon regain your old composure. You will be able to do something you very much enjoy doing. Make sure you look where you are going. Be generous.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You will be in a far better mood. You should make sure that you do not just gloss over the difficulties. Give others credit for what they have done. Be sensible.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You will tend to feel a little nervous but you will still be able to do what has to be done. Do not try to steal the credit for what someone else has done. You should not wait too long before responding to an offer or proposal. Be tolerant.

By Victor Davis

CINEMA-OWNERS, battered by a run of historical romance flops, once cabled Hollywood studios: Send no more movies where the men wear lace cuffs and write with quill pens.

On a film location in the shadow of Windsor Castle recently Lord Lew Grade set out to defy this show business taboo.

His secret weapon is an 87-year-old woman who has a taste for gallant hats, false eyelashes, the colour pink, glamour and gossip.

She also looks severely upon those she deems to be 'beige persons' — ie colourless.

A large number of well-known British actors are praying that they will not qualify for this latter version of damnation when Miss Barbara Cartland, marathon novelist and national monument, visits them.

They are currently cavorting on the set at Windsor Great Park — by kind permission of the Queen herself — sporting lace cuffs and quills in Lord Grade's film of Miss Cartland's Carolean epic *Dangerous Love*.

It is an amazing fact that although the indefatigable Miss Cartland has written 450 romantic novels, nobody thought to turn any into films before Lord Lew decided to bet that there was an audience out there hungering for dastardly villains and milk-white maidens.

Shrewd Lew was proved right last year.

His £4 million TV movie of a Cartland Regency swashbuckler *Hazard of Hearts* — originally entitled *Cupid Rides Pillion* 40 years ago — came second on TV viewing charts in America on Boxing Day and is a British video best-seller prior to a BBC airing.

Now he has put £6 million into *Dangerous Love* and optioned all 450 of her other romances.

Deal
Miss Cartland goes with the deal. It is her cheerful intention 'to interfere with production as much as possible.'

Happily she is unlikely to find any 'beige' persons on the set of *Dangerous Love*.

There is Sir John Mills, a convincingly Imperial Red and Navy blue in his time, Oliver Reed (definitely wine-coloured) and Christopher Cazenove (Old Etonian, so the

Queen of romance makes her grand screen entrance

colour of his tie at very least is all right). The others, from a sort of Green Room hall of fame, include Michael York, Claire Bloom, Emma Samms — and Gordon Jackson (playing a groom, so he's still Downstairs).

Lysette Anthony plays the latest rosy, peachy and creamy Cartland heroine.

'Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful!' trills the encochored authoress from her stately home, Camfield Place, Hatfield, Herts (pronounced hearts) reviewing the cast list.

'Ah, Lysette now, is very pretty, with big eyes and the sort of face you can do things with,' she said in breathless, girlish surges of conversation.

She lowered her voice. 'I don't see why I shouldn't tell you. In the first film, the women's dresses were too high. They don't read their history books, you see. They never do.'

'*Dangerous Love* is set in Charles II's time and he demanded décolletage. So I've told them that, whatever happens, I want my low dresses.'

Commented Emma Samms on the set: 'I had a real shock when I saw the plunge.'

'Still, as I'm playing King Charles's mistress, I suppose it's called for. But they are certainly the lowest I've ever worn.'

'We wouldn't dare go as far in *Dynasty*.'

Lysette Anthony, gorgeously arrayed in blue, with golden ringlets, said: 'The



Barbara Cartland: 'It is her cheerful intention to interfere with production as much as possible'.

whole thing is such a hoot.

'I was summoned to tea with Miss Cartland to see if I passed muster. She whipped off my hat and said: "Let's have a good look at you, dear."'

'Afterwards, she sent me a

letter hailing me as the most classical virgin in all the world.

'I just had to show my boy friend. Actually, I think I look like an anaemic cocker spaniel.'

Despite Barbara Cartland's massive sales — 500 million to date — I could find only one cast member who had actually read one of her romances, a fact they won't be keen to reveal when she visits.

'I read just one, when I was 14,' recalled Miss Anthony. Oliver Reed grunted: 'With all due respect, I don't think she's quite my cup of tea.'

Michael York, resplendent as the king, said: 'I must confess I approached the project slightly scornful of the books, but I was won over by the script.'

And if the cast don't appreciate her work, others do. The French recently gave her a medal and although she's short of honours in England she gets 50,000 fan letters a year.

They will all receive gracious replies.



Emma Samms and Michael York in a scene from the film.

AIDS puts a dampener on casual sex

By Jilly Weber

IN the past, casual sex has definitely been IN. Now, with the threat of AIDS it is certainly OUT.

But the makers of the new movie *Casual Sex?* will no doubt be hoping that it is about to make a big comeback ... if only on the screen.

And with sexy co-stars Stacy, played by Lea Thompson and Melissa played by Victoria Jackson, they are in with a good chance.

The movie is set against the plush surroundings of an exclusive health resort. Suddenly Stacy and Melissa are forced to confront the ever-changing social and sexual attitudes of the 1980's.

And not surprisingly it is set in Hollywood — home not only of movies but also of AIDS.

The action sees Melissa and Stacy confronted by several men who add to their bewilderment about modern dating and romance.

Vinny played by Andrew Dice Clay, a brawny pick up artist, Nick, played by Stephen Shellen, a songwriter dreaming of fame and wealth, Matthew (Peter Dinklage), a pompous psychologist and Jamie played by Jerry Levine, the health club's exercise instructor, are the men they have to face.

Off screen, however, the actors saw their roles somewhat differently.

The film's director Genevieve Robert says: 'It is a comedy. But it is a comedy that comes from human situations. We deal with real problems that 25-year-old women have to deal with these days, being single and the fact that sex now has all kinds of repercussions.'

Victoria Jackson says that the film offers a clear message of hope for men and women wondering how to find the perfect mate.

She explains: 'Don't force it. Be open to life and the right chemistry will happen — almost by accident.'

The movie began its life as a play written by Judy Toll and Wendy Goldman. Then Goldman appeared in a small role in *Ghostbusters* and so impressed film-maker Iva Reitman and his wife Genevieve Robert that Genevieve, asked to direct the film of the play as her first picture length movie.

Robert believes *Casual Sex?* is the first major film to deal directly with young adults and the dangers of casual sex.

She adds: 'I don't think any teen film can be made in the future that plays fast and loose with sex. AIDS is just too overwhelming, too deadly a problem of anyone in our business not to face responsibly.'

That's something the film's stunning star Lea Thompson certainly agrees with.

She says of the film: 'It shows that despite all of the confusion and the misunderstanding, love will survive in the end.'



Glenn Close (left) in a scene from *Fatal Attraction*.

After Fatal Attraction, a dangerous liaison

By Barbara Bright

PARIS. (Reuter): Actress Glenn Close, whose knife-wielding vengeance as the woman spurned appalled millions in *Fatal Attraction*, has turned to subtler sexual revenge as the star of an erotic 18th century French novel being filmed near Paris.

Close says she is sure reviewers will compare her role as the wicked Marquise de Merteuil in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* with that of the psychotic New York career woman which last year won her a fourth Academy Award nomination as best actress.

Merteuil is the pivotal character in the tale of aristocratic seduction and perversion by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, author of the literary classic that was revised on its publication in 1784 but rediscovered and widely praised in this century.

Historians say the story dealt with real people among the aristocracy in Grenoble. 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' has recently been revived as a

hit stage play on three continents, and a rival film, directed by Czechoslovak Milos Forman of *Amadeus* fame, is also in the works.

In the story, Merteuil dares her former lover the Vicomte de Valmont, played by American actor-director John Malkovich, to seduce a virtuous married woman in a devious revenge on a lover who has jilted her.

Close read the novel 10 years ago when she was working as an actress on the New York stage, before her film debut in *Garp* and her widely-praised role in *The Big Chill*.

'It scared me,' she said in an interview outside of the Versailles chateau that was the home of one of Louis XIV's mistresses, Madame du Barry.

The white-stone palace, now the Versailles Chamber of Commerce, is one of a dozen 18th century chateaux whose gilded rooms and sweeping gardens serve as backdrop for the rick costume drama.

'It scared me,' she repeated, 'because of the psychological terror of manipulation.'

But she found Merteuil 'one of the great figures of literature' and when British director Stephen Frears and playwright Christopher Hampton asked her to portray the role on the screen she jumped at the chance.

Close said she found Merteuil very different from her character in *Fatal Attraction*. Alex Forrest, a target of feminists in the United States who complained the film gave the impression single career women were psychotic.

Destructive

'They both end up being destructive, but Alex Forrest was out of control. Merteuil was always in control. She decided at an early age she wasn't going to be manipulated, that she'd be the manipulator.' She's absolutely brilliant.

Of her pairing with Malkovich, himself an academy award nominee for *The Killing Fields* and *Places in the Heart*, Close said she believes critics will find them 'magnetic'.

'If they don't, we're doing something wrong,' she said.



Close in 18th century costume for her new film *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*.



Streep in *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.

Is Meryl Streep suffering from overdrive?

Alan Stanbrook maintains that the two-time Oscar winner has lost the artful simplicity of her earlier work, in her quest for meatier roles.



Streep plays a down-and-out in *Ironweed*.

SOMETHING ought to be done about Meryl Streep.

Nowadays she put on funny accents and all kinds of disfiguring make-up and only plays the kind of meaty roles that look as if they might lass her another Academy Award.

We've heard her as a German-speaking Pole in *Sophie's Choice*, a Dane in *Out of Africa* or *Africa*, as she chooses to pronounce it in the film; we've even heard her as a neurotic Home Counties society hostess with a wartime career in the Resistance in *Plenty*.

She's currently seen in the made-for-the-cinema film *Ironweed*. That's the one where, swaddled in rags, with rotten teeth and a permanent runny nose, she masquerades as a drop-out of the Depression years. And she gets to belt out the song 'My Pal' at a barroom piano as if she were Marie Lloyd wowing them in variety.

It's a camera-hugging performance, in flagrant competition with her co-star, that other inveterate scene-stealer, Jack Nicholson. What happened in the 11 years between these films is that Meryl Streep won two Oscars (for *Kramer vs Kramer* and *Sophie's Choice*) and became a very grand star indeed, with mannerisms to match.

She made *Plenty* with the Australian director Fred Schepisi, with whom she has been working again on the recently completed *Evil Angels*, though that may not be its final title — it's had several to date.

It is based on the real-life case of an Australian housewife convicted (but later pardoned) of murder because the court would not believe that her baby could have been carried off by a wild dingo near Ayers Rock.

This will no doubt give her a

chance to practice her Strine and wear matte (for misery) make-up; it may even, perhaps, win her another Oscar nomination.

You see, Meryl Streep has joined the monstrosity club — along with Bette Davis, Joan Crawford and Anne Bancroft, all actresses who, given half a chance, roar through their roles in overdrive.

They were always so grand that nobody had the nerve to tell them to slow down, to pitch it a little lower and quieter.

Bette Davis is still at it in *The Whales of August* and one of the smaller pleasures of that autumn comedy is to see her quietly upstaged by the no less wily underplaying of another veteran actress, Lillian Gish.

Contact

Meryl Streep has long lost contact with the small, telling gesture. You could see them in embryo in *The Deadliest Season* and within a year of that film they were all over the cinema screens in a sudden puff of eye-catching

cameo roles: in *The Seduction of Joe Tynan* (as a political groupie), in *Manhattan* (as Woody Allen's lesbian ex-wife) and in *The Deer Hunter* (as the 'love interest', a potentially thankless assignment which she transformed into a role matching Robert De Niro's in stillness and sincerity).

This phase of her career reached its peak with *Kramer vs. Kramer* and *The French Lieutenant's Woman* — two hypnotic performances built up out of tiny, expressive gestures.

You could often tell what the character was thinking simply by the way she stood or sat. It was a new type of realistic acting and deservedly won her her first Oscar (a supporting one) for *Kramer vs. Kramer*.

It all went wrong after that. In *Still of the Night* and the more recent *Heartburn* she was no longer an actress but a star. In the old days, you could have imagined Joan or Bette or Olivia de Havilland in the parts.

Rot

You can see the rot spreading in *Silkwood*, where she played a working girl irradiated in a plutonium factory. She's so aggressively prole-ish it isn't true.

Look around her at some of the other actors playing 'plebs', especially Cher (before she, too, hit the Oscar trail). They speak as roughly as Meryl Streep, but they don't stab the air with their cigarettes, swagger around the set and stand with arms akimbo like a gladiator during the lions to do their worst.

There may yet be hope for Meryl Streep. Reunited with Robert De Niro in *Falling in Love* she briefly recaptured the artful simplicity we all admired in her early work. Unfortunately, the film was not a big commercial hit. They won't be making movies like that again for a while.



Meryl Streep: in the same class as Bette Davis, Joan Crawford and Anne Bancroft.

Hong Kong films dethrone Hollywood

By Vitoria Hui

HONG KONG. (UPI): In the world's No. 1 movie-going city, Hollywood is no longer king.

Hollywood's big-budget blockbusters are being pushed aside for a score of high quality Cantonese-language films specifically catering to Hong Kong tastes and humour.

'Ten years ago, two-thirds of box office returns went to imported movies, mainly Hollywood productions,' said William Kong, a distributor of foreign films.

'But now, Western movies account for only 25 per cent of the market,' he said. 'If the situation continues to deteriorate, it will be very difficult for us to stay in business.'

Statistics compiled by Golden Harvest, a local film producer, show Hong Kong residents are the world's greatest moviegoers. On average, they attend the movies once a month, compared with fewer than five times a year for Americans.

Ranks

Hong Kong theatres last year took in \$1.2 billion at the box office, and locally produced films accounted for 75 per cent of that figure. Currently, only 15 out of 110 cinemas in Hong Kong now regularly show foreign movies.

Hong Kong now ranks third in the world in movie production, behind the United States

and India. Last year 105 Hong Kong-made films were released, compared with about 300 US-made films in the same period.

In addition, the quality of Hong Kong's movies has shown significant improvement over the old 'fists-and-kicks' flicks.

'A Chinese ghost story,' produced by the film workshop, won the special prize and the Coup de Coeur in the Avoriaz festival in France in January, and was named best film at the Fantasporto festival in Portugal the following month.

The movie is also featured in this year's new director/new films series at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Popularity

All of this new respectability, however, probably owes a debt to those 'fists-and-kicks' movies of the 1970s and to the late Kung-Fu star Bruce Lee, who helped bring attention to Hong Kong movies.

'It was Bruce Lee who made Hong Kong movies well known to the world,' said Russell Cawthorne of Golden Harvest. 'Hong Kong has excelled in action movies since then.'

Action movies still are popular all across Asia and remain a staple in Hong Kong's film industry. But local artists are also producing a wide variety of movies, led by a group of 'new wave' directors

who have been trained broad.

These films have been steadily gaining in popularity and have made a noticeable dent in the box-office take of US-made films.

Rambo: First Blood Part II was the top-grossing foreign movie ever shown in Hong Kong, pulling in \$3.17 million over a 57-day period in 1985. In 1978, *Star Wars* brought in only \$351,282 while *The Empire Strikes Back* in 1980 earned \$735,897. E.T. earned \$2.15 million in 1983.

But the largest-grossing local film in Hong Kong was the locally produced *Eighth Happiness*, a family comedy about three brothers finding new love on the wrong telephone lines as a result of a breakdown in the phone system. It grossed \$4.7 million in February, during the Chinese new year period, a key movie-going period similar to Christmas and the summer holiday period in the United States.

'The problem with US movies here is the style of storytelling,' explained Shukie, a film critic. Hong Kong directors put many different elements together — laughter, sorrow, fighting and romance can all exist in one film.

'This style of story-telling fits neatly to the hurried nature of life in Hong Kong, making American movies boring to most people.'

If Hong Kong is exotic to Americans, imagine what the

United States, and American humour, must be like for Hong Kong residents, especially the large number of immigrants from China who do not speak English.

American humour is often based on word play, and does not make sense to non-English speaking people, even in translation, which could be another reason for the growing interest in locally made films.

But the Hollywood magic still has a foothold in Hong Kong and quality movies will always draw crowds.

'Hong Kong movies are better than many Hollywood class B ones, but there is a very long way to go to beat class A blockbusters,' Shukie said.

The US film industry has made some adjustments in its marketing strategy in Hong Kong, as a response to the growing interest in local productions.

Rather than flooding the Hong Kong market with all kinds of American movies, Hollywood uses the practice of 'going narrow' which means releasing only those films likely to appeal to local moviegoers in reduced number of theatres.

Also, Hong Kong does not yet have the technology to duplicate Hollywood's more lavish productions, such as the *Star Wars* movies, so those US films are likely to make money, though not as much as local ones.

Breaking a bastion of male supremacy

Modern queen in world's oldest monarchy

DENMARK'S reigning Queen Margrethe II is a highly contemporary representative of the world's oldest monarchy with ancestral links stretching back 1,000 years.

Queen Margrethe acceded to the throne in 1972, when at the age of 31 — following new rules laid down in 1953 concerning female succession — she succeeded her late father King Frederik IX. With the sole exception of Queen Margrethe I (1375-1412), all prior monarchs had been male.

That a pretty and talented young princess should break with the 560-year-old tradition of male supremacy in the Danish monarchy was felt by the vast majority of the Danish people as a refreshing inauguration of a new era — with equal rights for men and women.

Quite apart from all the goodwill surrounding her accession to the throne, Queen Margrethe has succeeded in distinguishing herself as an active and vital person in today's Denmark; she combines a pronounced ability to live up to the duties of her high office with an understanding of what motivates the ordinary citizen.

Thanks to these qualities, Queen Margrethe on several occasions has won first place, when Gallup opinion polls had the task of finding the most popular Dane.

Distinguished
Winning such a distinguished place in the mind of the ordinary Dane owes much — among many other qualities — to the deeply committed New Year speeches that Queen Margrethe holds each year on radio and television, and in which she often has appealed for compassion and goodwill towards the weaker in society.

Also contributing to the fondness felt towards Queen Margrethe are her obviously creative and artistic talents, which have found particular



Her Majesty, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. Her accession to the throne broke a 560-year-old tradition of male supremacy in the Danish monarchy.

expression in the illustrative areas. In 1977-78, she contributed 70 drawings for J.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" and has since illustrated diverse Danish works. One year she festively composed the "Christmas seals," which all Danes add to the normal stamps on their Yuletide letters. Queen Margrethe's latest creation in this area were the stamps used by the Danish postal services in 1985 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Denmark's liberation from

Nazi occupation. The Queen, together with her consort, Prince Henrik, has translated Simone de Beauvoir's "All Men are Mortal" from French into Danish. The Queen and Prince, as they themselves have said, had "used the long dark winter evenings at the royal palace to amuse themselves by translating this fine French prose into Danish."

Queen Margrethe (Alexandrine, Thorildur, Ingrid) was born on April 16, 1940, the first child of King Frederik IX and



Queen Margrethe, with Prince Henrik (right) and their two sons.

Queen Ingrid. The event occurred just one week after the Germans had occupied Denmark, and the birth of the princess was seen by many Danes as a ray of light in the dark.

During one of her many tours of study abroad, Princess Margrethe met in London the young French Count Henri de Laborde de Monpezat, who was at the time attached to the French embassy there, and, as the Queen declared in a later television interview, it was love at first sight. "The horizon was all flame," she said and they were married in Copenhagen in 1967.

The royal couple have two sons, Crown Prince Frederik (the heir to the throne), born in 1968, and Prince Joachim, born in 1969.

The Queen's days are filled

with the strenuous duties of her position. She presides over meetings of Council of State, where all legislation is put forward. Beyond this her tasks are largely of a representative nature. She receives new ambassadors and foreign heads of state visiting Denmark, and together with Prince Henrik she undertakes official visits to other countries, in 1987 as far as Australia.

The royal family's official residence in Copenhagen is the Amalienborg Palace — alternating during the summer months with Fredensborg Palace in North Zealand and Marselisborg in Aarhus. Queen Ingrid's summer residence is Grasten Palace in South Jutland. The royal couple often sail during the summertime in the royal yacht Dannebrog.



Selling soap for over six decades: (left to right) Clara Bow, Ginger Rogers, Barbara Stanwyck, Elizabeth Taylor, Joan Collins and Raquel Welch

Changing image of the ideal soap star

For the last sixty years, the makers of Lux soap have linked the mass market product to the screen goddesses of the day. But during those six decades advertisers have radically altered their perceptions of women: instead of the 'guilt-ridden, humourless, male-dominated' woman of the 20's we now have the 80's woman — 'narcissistic with a streak of exhibitionism, unpredictable, determined and resilient.'

By Diana Hutchinson

SEXLESS, guilt-ridden and male-dominated, with no sense of humour and the intellectual grasp of a child. That is the astonishing picture advertisers held of women 60 years ago — and went on holding into the Swinging Sixties.

She was the kind of person who, when Ginger Rogers told her in a 1930s' bubble caption that washing her face with Lux day and night would bring romance, actually believed it.

But advertisers have altered their perceptions over the decades. Today's woman is seen as 'narcissistic with a streak of exhibitionism, unpredictable, determined and resilient'. That is according to Judie Lannon, the research director of J. Walter Thompson, the advertising agency which has kept the Lux account for 60 years.

Secret

'The concept was always to link the world's first mass-market soap with the screen goddesses of the day,' she says. 'But the way JWP viewed women and their self-perceptions couldn't have changed more dramatically.'

In 1928, when the first campaign began, women were seen as permanently grateful to someone — children, husbands or salesmen — and riddled with secret anxieties about germs, dirt and other people's culture.

Even though they were selling soap, there could be no reference to the allure of the female body or any hint that a woman could be remotely interested in activities of a sexual nature.

Judie says: 'Advertising stayed in the drawing room. Sex began and ended with romance. The central premise lay in the careful design of a plot to capture a man.'

So, fantasy stars like sultry Pola Negri and Clara Bow, the 'It' girls, were the unlikely choice to sell soap. And Barbara Stanwyck, a wholesome-looking lady to whom dramas occurred, 'Women', says Judie, 'were reduced to fantasising on a grand mythic scale.'

War-time heroines didn't sell sex with the soap. They were the untouchable pin-ups, like Betty Grable and Rita Hayworth, or the stand-by-your-man variety like Gracie Fields. The hiring of Vera Lynn to feature in an ad campaign was the masterstroke of 1943.

Powerful

In the Fifties, the demure and ladylike Grace Kelly and Audrey Hepburn were judged the stars most women wanted to be like. Elizabeth Taylor, then 20, also appeared looking like an innocent teenager. Five years later, an extremely fresh-faced Joan Collins set the tone for the new adverts.

Market research had told advertisers women didn't

believe in themselves; their status and success was dependent on men. 'Their bodies were "hidden" by their clothes, hairstyles and make-up. But they had a greater sense of outer beauty and glamour. They saw themselves as a piece of brilliant jewellery belonging to a man,' Judie says.

Other people still came first. The dream job was to be an air stewardess. It was a chance to rub shoulders with luxury and to see the world, but remain in the role of a servant to men.

It was in the Sixties that radical change began, and women demanded a say both at work and in the home. Advertising changed so the star image was no longer someone impossibly far above them, but more in the role of a friend. Positive women's women like Julie Christie, Jacqueline Bisset and Raquel Welch who had a powerful way of dealing with men.

Discreet

But what had not altered by the Seventies, despite the rise of feminism and labour-saving devices, was the fact that housewives spent 40 hours and walked 52 miles a week doing household chores.

The Eighties has heralded the New Woman. Only four out of ten are full-time housewives. Now, more than 60 per cent of women below retirement age are out at work. They account for 90 per cent of grocery purchases, including soap; and



The face for 1988: Nastassja Kinski

even the over-45s are accounting for £18 billion annual expenditure.

And, according to the research, the New Woman has a poor view of the way advertisers and marketers try to stereotype them. 'The New Woman is an individual, not one in an amorphous mass,' says Judie.

'She has intelligence and a discreet, often maverick, personality which reacts unpredictably. She has become more competitive and no longer feels compelled to please other people.' New Woman is also proud of her body, and advertising has definitely moved into the bathroom.

Today's stars are Victoria Principal and Cheryl Ladd — both out and out keep-fit career women — along with the notoriously free-minded Nastassja Kinski and Isabella Adjani.

Only one thing hasn't changed, according to research done

to mark Lux's diamond anniversary. The main focus of a woman's life is still getting married and having children, and providing them with a warm and secure home.

Only don't give her any soft soap along the way — she will not be patronised anymore.



If you feel ten years younger after a shave in the morning, why don't you shave before you come to bed?

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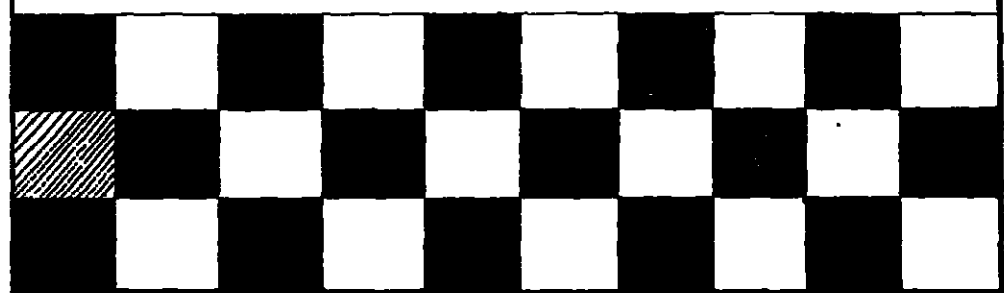
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1. Solve the clue underneath the entry card (below) and enter the number that you think is the answer in the shaded square on the left-hand side of the card. This square must be completed.
2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
3. Fill in your name and address in the appropriate lines on the form, in block letters.
4. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
5. Register your Free Bingo entry by sending it to the ARAB TIMES. Read details below carefully.
6. Watch out for YOUR numbers each morning in the ARAB TIMES.

FREE BINGO No. 66 ENTRY



ANSWER THIS CLUE IN THE SHADED SQUARE:

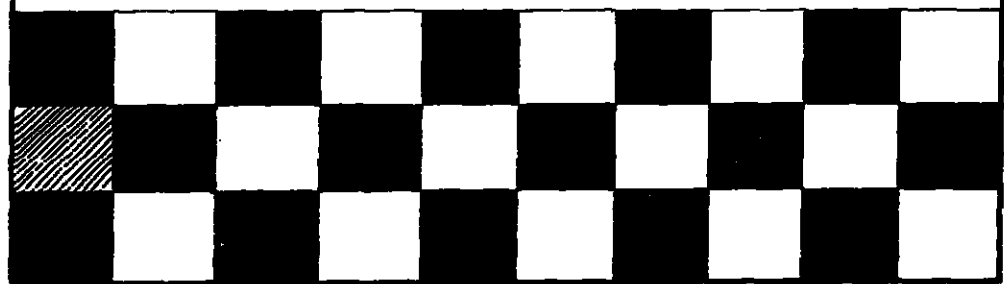
SEOUL OLYMPIC GAMES BEGIN

NAME (Mr./Mrs./Miss)

ADDRESS

IS YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE?

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How to claim

EVERYDAY four numbers will appear on Page Two. A number may be repeated. If this happens, continue with the rest of the numbers. Check off on your copy card the number or numbers which coincide with your selected numbers. Do this every day.

Please make a note of the last number you checked off, i.e. the one that completes your claim. Claimants will be asked to give this number which will decide the allocation of prizes.

When you have a claim, phone: 4813566/272 or 287 between 12 noon and 1 pm. Claims after 1 pm WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You or anyone telephoning for you must have your copy card when the claim is made.

Is the initial of your surname in the front of the envelope?

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE AND INITIAL OF YOUR SURNAME ON THE LEFT HAND TOP CORNER IN FRONT. This is essential for the speedy checking of claims. Entries received without names and initials as mentioned above will be disqualified. When you have completed your entry

card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to: Bingo, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat Kuwait. A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Money supply growth increased by 4.7pc last year

Kuwait's economic recovery hopes soar

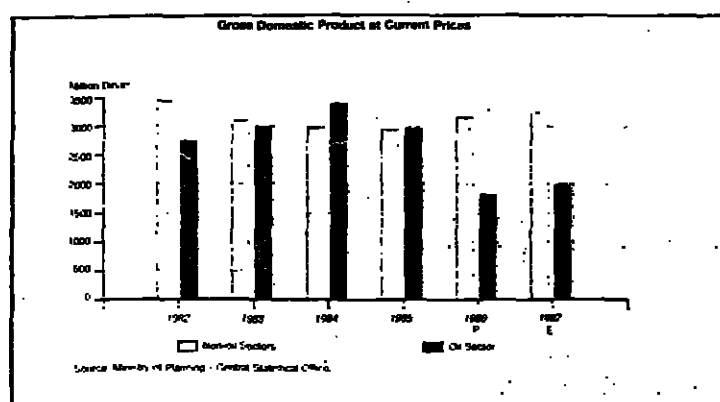
THE Kuwait economy was looking up in 1987 as compared to the previous year in several aspects. The population has increased by 4.6 per cent in 1987 and reached the level of 1.873 million, according to the Bank Operating Statistics published by the Kuwait's Institute of Banking Studies. But the exports in 1987 has gone up by 10.85 per cent to reach KD2,330 million. The increase and stabilisation of oil prices during the year around \$16-18 per barrel had helped increasing the revenues from oil export. The oil export in 1987 was KD2,097 million, which was 13.2 per cent more than the previous year. The public revenues also have increased in 1987 by 8 per cent from the 1986 level and reached KD2,518 million.

However, the public expenditure in 1987 was KD2,520 million during the year which was 17.3 per cent less than 1986 level. This was probably due to the budget deficits of 1985 and 86.

Loans
In 1987, all Kuwaiti banks have worked seriously for implementing the Difficult Credit Facilities Settlement Programme. In essence, the

programme consists of rescheduling of the problem loans over either 10 or 15 years. Under the programme, the Central Bank has guaranteed the short-term loans of the banks against indebtedness in order to protect the interests of shareholders and depositors alike, in addition to solving the debt problem without causing extraordinary painful effects of the defaulters. The efforts on the Central Bank in this direction was primarily aimed to help putting the banks back into a sound footing for the future without causing political or social problems. The process is expected to be completed by 1988 and once completed, it would undoubtedly lay a strong foundation for the economic recovery and growth of the country. With that the banking system would also become more sound.

Increased
The total money supply had increased by 4.7 per cent in 1987, while the increase in money supply was only 2.6 per cent in 86. At the same time during the year the interbank money rates have further declined from the previous year levels. By the end of the year overnight rates were quoted



around 3 per cent and the 3-month rates around 5 per cent.

In March 1987, the Central Bank announced a new interest rate policy. Interest rate ceiling for loans up to one year maturity for productive purposes was fixed at 6 per cent level while for the other types of short-term loans, the rate was fixed at 7.5 per cent. For loans with maturity over one year, the ceiling was fixed at 1 per cent above the Kuwait Inter-Bank Offered Rate (KIBOR) prevailing at the time of granting the loan. For consumer loans the ceiling was fixed at 6 per cent which could be dis-

counted at the time of loan disbursement. The new interest rate policy is expected to stimulate consumption and investment in the local and consequently the economic activity in the country.

Move
In September 1987, the government decided to introduce short-term treasury bills and long-term treasury bonds programme in Kuwait. The move authorises the government to raise KD1.4 billion from the public in the form of borrowings. It was a move to bridge the budget deficits of government. At the same time the step would also

help providing additional investment opportunities for the financial institutions and the residents, and broaden the financial market of Kuwait.

The instruments are bearer instruments listed in the local stock market. Though the underwriting is restricted to the local financial institution, individuals and companies also could buy the instruments.

Bonds
The first three issues of treasury bills and treasury bonds by the Central Bank of Kuwait in late 1987 was overwhelmingly received by the financial market. The CBK could raise a total of KD628 million (KD423 million from treasury bills and KD205 million from treasury bonds) from the first three issues alone.

In the year 1987, approximately KD105 million was raised by the international bond issuers and the Kuwait investment companies from the local capital market. In May 1987, the Republic of Finland issued KD20 million worth of 7-year bonds in Kuwait. This was the first such issue by a non-Kuwaiti borrower since 1982. It was followed by KD30

million bond issue by the World Bank. In addition to these issues, the three major investment companies of Kuwait had issued a total of KD55 million worth of bonds. The above bond issues indicate the revival of the bond market in Kuwait.

Activity
The stock market activity in Kuwait has further improved in 1987. The splitting up of par value of shares from one KD to 100 fils in 1987 is expected to widen the participation in the market.

The five year plan of Kuwait for 1985-90 had set a target growth rate of 3.9 per cent for the GDP. This growth rate is possible to achieve with improved government expenditure during 1988-90 period.

The official reserves of the country is estimated to be around KD25 billion in 1986, of which around KD14 billion is held as the Fund for Future Generations and the remaining in the form of the general reserves of the state. The above reserves and the investment income arising from their investments would continue to provide financial security to the country even in the eventuality of any decline of oil prices.

Oil consumption will increase, says OPEC official

ECONOMIC reconstruction in the Gulf will weigh heavily on oil production in the region and prices of the commodity worldwide, according to a senior Arab oil industry official.

Indications abound that oil consumption will increase by about one million barrels a day by next year, said acting Secretary General of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Abdul Aziz Al Wattari in an interview published on Sunday.

If global production accelerates beyond the level of consumption, it will be hard for producers to maintain the current prices. Al Wattari warned in a newspaper interview.

Demand
Meanwhile, he defended Iraq's demand for an OPEC production quota equal to Iran's 2.369 million barrels per day (BPD), saying OPEC's overall output will not increase if the Iraqi request is met. He did not explain how.

OPEC includes 10 oil exporting Arab countries, but is not involved in production and pricing policies of its members.

Most other oil exporters support Iraq's stand and think equal quotas would clear the way for an agreement which in turn would stabilize the market.

System

Iraq broke away from the OPEC quota system in 1980 and has since been producing freely to press its demand for a production ceiling equal to that of its war foe. OPEC's current ceiling to the exclusion of Iraq is 15.06 million BPD.

Wattari faulted the media in the region for ignoring a major factor in oil market developments which is how oil revenues will be spent in the wake of the Gulf war ceasefire.

He said spending oil revenues on reconstruction and development in peacetime will re-energize other several economic sectors, chiefly industries related to oil production, manufacturing and export.

North Yemen premier holds economic talks in Syria

DAMASCUS, Sept 4. (Reuters): North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul-Aziz Abdulghani arrived in Syria today for an official visit aimed at promoting economic and oil co-operation, officials said.

Diplomats said Abdulghani, whose country joined the ranks of world oil producers earlier this year, might seek Syrian technical expertise in developing North Yemen's oil industry.

Co-operation

Syria has produced oil since the late 1960s and now has an estimated output of 250,000 barrels per day. More than 80 per cent of its oil operations are run by local engineers and experts.

Abdulghani, who was greeted by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi, said in an arrival statement that he would discuss ways to expand economic co-operation and commercial exchanges with Syria.

Investors show keen interest in shares

Kuwait banks' assets growing, says IBS study

THE overall performance of the banks in Kuwait indicates that the banks have experienced better rates of performance in several major parameters in 1987 as compared to the previous two years.

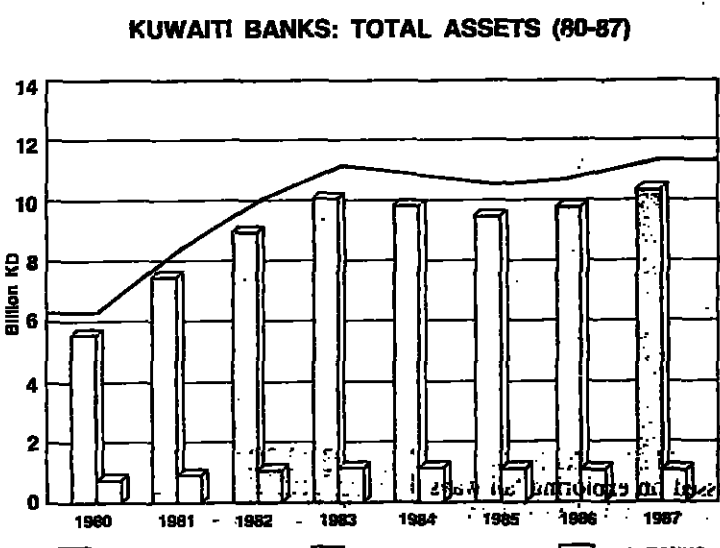
After 1983, the banks in Kuwait were experiencing declining trends of performance in 1984 and 1985. The worst year was 1985.

The 1986 had shown not only a reversal of the declining trend in performance, but also a marginal improvement as compared to 1985. The situation has definitely improved in 1987, says the IBS study.

Assets
At the end of 1987, the eight banks had attained a total asset of KD 11,358 million which was 5.4 per cent more than the total asset of the previous year.

The IBS study said it should be noted that in 1986, the assets of the banks had grown only by 2.38 per cent. It is also important to note that for the first time after 1983, the value of the assets of the banking sector has surpassed the 1983 level of KD 11,156 million.

By the end of 1987, the loans and discounts of the eight banks have grown by 3.4 per cent to reach KD 6,007 million and the investment and deposits by 7.7



per cent to reach KD 2,692 million. Meanwhile, the deposits stood at KD 9,931 million level and the shareholders' equity at KD 1,114 million.

The annual growth in deposits in 1987 was 4.37 per cent that of share holders' equity was 11.7 per cent.

Profit
In 1987 the net profit of the eight banks has increased by 14.9 per cent from the previous year. The net profit in 1987 was KD

63.12 million. At the same time it may be noted that the 1987 net profit of commercial banks has been only 73 per cent of the peak level net profit achieved in 1983.

But in all aspects the growth rates of the banking system in 1987 were better than the previous year.

At the end of 1987 the aggregate market value of the shares of the banks — excluding the Industrial Bank, whose shares are not traded — was KD

1,707 million while the book value of shares was KD 1,114 million.

The 1987 market value of shares of the seven banks was 30 per cent more than that of the previous year. But still the market value of bank shares remained only at 46 per cent of the 1982 value.

However, as compared to 1985, the market value was 86 per cent more in 1987. This may be considered as a clear indication of the renewal of investors' confidence in the bank shares.

As on December 31, 1987, the eight banks have employed 6,425 employees. Of this, the number of Kuwaitis was 1,165 as against 5,260 foreigners.

Growth
As on December 31, 1987, the total assets of the six commercial banks was KD 10,320 million as against KD 9,724 million of 1986. The growth rate of assets in 1987 was 6.13 per cent as against 3.08 per cent in 1986. At the end of 1987, the total deposits, and loans and discounts were KD 9,234 and 5,450 million respectively, which were also marginally higher than the previous year.

It must be noted that consecutively, for 1984 and 85 the total assets of the commercial

banks have been declining from the peak level of 1983 (KD 10,038 million) which was reached after the continuous growth during the 1976 to 83 period.

It is comforting to note that the trend of 1984 and 85 was reversed in 1986 and 87. Moreover, in 1987, the assets of commercial banks have surpassed the 1983 level for the first time in the recent years.

Funds
In 1987 the shareholder's funds employed by the commercial banks has improved by 12.7 per cent from the previous year level of KD 887 million to KD 1,000 million.

Of this, the increase of KD 101 million, or 10.1 per cent, came from the increase in share capital during the year.

Meanwhile, in 1987 the net profit of the commercial banks has increased by 19 per cent from the previous year. The net profit in 1987 was KD 54.27 million. It may be also noted in the 1987 net profit of commercial banks has been only 72 per cent of the peak level net profit achieved in 1983.

At the same time in 1987, the total assets of two specialised banks has declined from KD 1,048 million in 1986 to KD 1,038 million.

(Continued on Page 11)

Spirits in the financial community get a big boost

Wall Street hopes for better times

NEW YORK, Sept 4. (AP): Wall Streeters are hoping for some extra cause to celebrate with the arrival of the traditional "business new year" at Labour Day, next Monday.

First of all, they would like to see investors and traders, back from the diversions of summer, helping to pick up the tempo from the anemic pace of activity in recent weeks.

In addition, they see some preliminary signs of relief from the constant talk lately of too-rapid economic growth, revived inflation and credit-tightening by the Federal Reserve.

Spirits in the financial community got a big boost on Friday when the Labour Department reported slower-than-expected employment growth for August, and revised downward its figure for July as well. Both the stock and bond markets responded

quickly with strong gains.

That, of course, put traders in the familiar but still awkward position of seeming to applaud an increase in the unemployment rate, in this case to 5.6 per cent in August from 5.4 per cent in July.

But the standard interpretation of the data among financial analysts was that it signalled moderating growth in the economy and less cause to worry about inflation.

Rates
Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, has made clear with both words and action his concern of late that inflationary pressures were building.

Moves by the Fed to restrain those pressures by tightening credit conditions have produced a steady increase in short-term interest rates.

In the view of many analysts, the new employment data raise

the possibility that the central bank won't feel obliged to tighten credit any further at least through the November elections.

The latest evidence "suggests the current structure of short-term rates is too high," said Tom Carpenter, chief economist at ASB Capital Management in Washington.

"A couple more months of moderate earnings gains should cause short rates to go down," Joseph Feshbach, an analyst at Prudential-Bache Securities, argues that "September should cool off the bond market's overheated anxieties."

"I believe that before the year is out we'll see a very sharp bond rally as it becomes evident that the fear of inflation has been blown out of all proportion," he said in a commentary published before Friday's report.

Thanks to the rally on Friday,

the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials finished the past week with a net gain of 37.16 points at 2,054.59.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index rose 2.42 to 149.66 the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market gained 2.08 to 376.51, and the American Stock Exchange Market Value index was up 1.75 at 295.62.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 128.48 million shares a day, up from 117.29 million the week before.

The rise in interest rates here and overseas should eventually begin to cool demand," says David Resler, chief economist at Nomura Securities International in New York.

"So far, available data suggest that the late second-quarter surge in demand may have subsided a bit."

UK gold, currency reserves up

LONDON, Sept 4. (KUNA): British gold and foreign currency reserves rose by \$813 million in August, helped by \$495 million from American and Canadian investors, it was officially reported here today.

They were paying the second instalment of BP privatised shares bought at the time of the doomed sell-off last October immediately in the wake of the stock market crash, the British Treasury pointed out.

As a result, the reserves rose from \$49,826 million to \$50,639 million, the first time they have ever topped the \$50-billion mark.

Efforts
British officials said that the figures reflected the Bank of England's efforts to halt the rise of the pound earlier this month.

But sterling has weakened in recent days, and some of the reserves will probably have been used to prop up the currency.

Egypt, IMF in crucial talks over economic reform

CAIRO, Sept 4. (Reuters): Egypt and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have renewed their critical tug-of-war over how far and how fast to reform the Egyptian economy, burdened by a \$4.3 billion debt.

The two sides began closed talks in Cairo yesterday on an economic reform package which, if agreed, would clear the way for Egypt to seek further debt rescheduling at the 18-nation Paris Club.

"This meeting will be quite crucial to see if they can put some ideas on paper," said a Western diplomat in Cairo.

"I'd be very disappointed if something didn't come out of it, although it may take another meeting," he added.

The government of President Hosni Mubarak, while anxious

to reform the economy, is worried that hasty measures could provoke social unrest in the largest Arab state.

A new letter of intent by Egypt, if accepted by the IMF would replace an earlier 18-month programme that officially terminated at the end of June.

The earlier agreement allowed Egypt to reschedule debt with individual Paris Club members which came due in the 18-month period. Japan, however, still has not agreed with Egypt on rescheduling terms.

Payments
"There are problems," said a Japanese diplomat, who expected another meeting on the issue in Tokyo this month.

Many payments required since July 1 have not been made, diplomats said. But IMF

approval of a new programme would allow Egypt to reschedule retroactively.

The Cairo daily Al-Ahram said today Egypt was seeking a two-to-three-year package that would include IMF credits.

Egypt is still negotiating with the IMF to release the last \$150 million of a \$325-million standby credit that was part of the last programme. Diplomats said the money was withheld because of IMF disappointment over the pace of reform.

Al-Ahram, reflecting official concern about sudden reforms, said: "Egypt is taking measures on economic readjustment as part of a gradual plan for reform taking into consideration the social conditions of the low-income categories."

It said the steps would control

prices, limit unemployment and curb inflation.

The IMF wants Egypt to reduce its budget deficit, which equals about 17 per cent of gross domestic product totalling about \$43 billion (\$19 billion).

The means to achieve this, including reductions in consumer subsidies, are often inflationary and Egypt wants to take such measures very gradually.

Rates
The IMF would also like to see higher interest rates on deposits and unification of the exchange rate.

Egypt won plaudits from the IMF for abolishing an artificially low commercial exchange rate, but still maintains another low rate used for imports of basic goods.

The rate of 0.70 pounds to the dollar, compared to the market rate of about 2.32, represents a heavy hidden subsidy.

The government is considering raising interest rates two to three per cent from current levels of about 13 per cent. Cairo papers have reported. The jump would still be far from the current inflation level, estimated at about 30 per cent.

Diplomats said Egypt wanted to reform the economy and was anxious to reach an IMF agreement to reduce pressure from its creditors, but not at the cost of igniting social disorder.

"I don't foresee an immediate balance of payments crisis, but it's not getting any easier for them," said one. "They've got to regularise their debt situation somehow."

World Business Summary

Saudi firm launches public share flotation

RIYADH, Sept 4. (Reuters): A newly-formed real estate development company based in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah has launched a public share flotation worth 84 million riyals (\$22.3 million). The two-month flotation for the Makkah Construction and Development Co. — Saudi Arabia's fourth in 1988 after a three-year hiatus — began on Saturday. Makkah is offering 3.36 million shares, representing 25 per cent of its total capital of 1.336 billion riyals (\$356 million). A nominal 1.02 billion riyals (\$272 million) of shares are being offered privately to founding shareholders. The shares are priced at 100 riyals (\$26.6) and subscribers must pay 25 per cent of the face value of the stock. An spokesman for the consulting centre for finance and investment, which is handling the flotation said the offering had begun well, but would give no details. Makkah will specialise in construction of new buildings and renovation of old in Makkah, Islam's holiest city and the site of the Hajj annual pilgrimage. An earlier 322.5 million riyal (\$121 million) flotation for Al-Hajj Investment Banking Corp was oversubscribed nearly eight times with share prices reported more than tripling to 355 riyals (\$93) in several weeks. But two other offerings were not as well received. A 300 million riyal (\$112.5 million) flotation for Talba Co for Investments and Real Estate Development closed marginally oversubscribed in April after a 30-day extension. A 149.1 million riyal (\$36 million) offering for Al-Jouf Agricultural Development Co ended five per cent undersubscribed in July after two 30-day extensions.

China's Central Bank to tie interest rates to inflation

BEIJING, Sept 4. (AP): China's Central Bank will tie interest rates on savings deposits to inflation in a move to quell bank runs and panic-buying caused by rising prices. The official Xinhua news agency said today the People's Bank of China will provide subsidies that will bridge any gap between interest rates and the price index. It said the measure will take effect on Sept 10 and apply to three, five and eight-year savings deposits. Xinhua said the subsidies will be given only to individual depositors, and collectors that try to transfer their deposits to individuals will be fined. On Sept 1 commercial banks raised interest rates for time deposits, with rates for a three-year deposit going from 7.2 per cent to 8.64 per cent, still well below the consumer inflation rate of 19 per cent registered in June. Sharp rises in prices, and rumours that the government will boost the prices of more items as part of its price reforms, have led to runs on banks, hoarding and panic-buying in many parts of the country in recent weeks. The government has tried to restore calm by announcing there will be no further price hikes this year and ordering banks to adopt stricter lending practices to cool off the overheated economy. Xinhua said today the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China issued a circular instructing branches not to refuse withdrawals by depositors. It said lending should be limited to organisations needing funds for key state projects or for buying daily necessities such as grain. It also said that no loans should be provided to enterprises responsible for indiscriminate price hikes.

London talks seen crucial to survival of cocoa pact

LONDON, Sept 4. (Reuters): The international cocoa agreement may become the next commodity pact to founder by efforts to balance supply and demand in a global world market, government and trade experts say. On Monday cocoa producers and consumers met here in what could be their last chance to patch over wide differences. Last week cocoa prices fell to their lowest in more than 12 years. Producing and consuming nations in the International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO) have since March been arguing over where the pact should try to peg cocoa prices. "There is a real danger the whole agreement will have to be dismantled," said Lawrence Eagles of London-based commodity analysts Lendell Mills. Last week, Ivory Coast Agriculture Minister Denis Ibra Kanon, whose country is the world's biggest cocoa producer, said bluntly: "We see it (the pact) dying in its own death." And Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny said his country would not join any new pact beyond September 1990, unless prices rose. Delegates to the two-week meeting will be haunted by memories of the 1985 collapse of the international tin agreement, which left huge debts and a string of still unresolved lawsuits in its wake. Cocoa futures on Friday touched their lowest levels for more than 12 years in London at around \$800 (\$1,340 a tonne). Faced with a likely fifth successive surplus crop, analysts say the world cocoa supply is well out of balance with demand. Through consumption is rising on lower shop prices, it is unable to catch up with output that reflects increased plantings five to 10 years ago, particularly in Ivory Coast and Malaysia.

OPEC chairman under fire

LAGOS, Sept 4. (Reuters): A leading Nigerian newspaper said today that the country's Oil Minister, OPEC chairman, Kibuka Lukman, was under fire at home from senior officials and members of the ruling military council. The front-page story in the Guardian, widely regarded as one of Nigeria's most authoritative newspapers, quoted anonymous government officials as describing Lukman's handling of national oil policy as sabotage and nepotistic. The article was a rare attack on Lukman whose standing has risen at home and abroad since he was elected chairman of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1986. "The minister is being criticised by some of his colleagues and Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) members for allegedly recommending policies that were later found not to be in the best interest of Nigeria," the newspaper said. Lukman's critics felt he was too high-minded in refusing to allow Nigeria to deviate from its OPEC crude production quota despite regular breaches by other OPEC members, it said. One AFRC member said Nigeria, whose battered economy is dependent on crude oil exports, should never again accept the OPEC chairman's ship. The AFRC is composed of 29 senior military officers and chaired by the President, General Ibrahim Babangida. Spokesmen for the government and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), of which Lukman is also chairman, were not immediately available for comment. Lukman was abroad on a private visit.

Moscow boosts paper exports

MOSCOW, Sept 4. (Reuters): The Soviet Union — where officials citing a paper shortage have curtailed subscriptions to the most popular periodicals — has increased exports of paper, pulp and timber, Moscow Radio reported today. The radio quoted Leonid Grekov, deputy chief of the State Foreign Economic Relations Commission, as saying reform of Soviet foreign trade activities had brought a rise in sales abroad of paper along with machinery and metal ore. News that subscription lists were being curtailed for next year has sparked an outcry among supporters of "glasnost", the Kremlin's openness policy, which complains that greater freedom of expression becomes meaningless if the ideas cannot be read.

The circulation limits affect the immensely popular weekly Ogonoyok, the ground-breaking literary journals Novy Mir and Znamya and dozens of other periodicals whose leadership has surged in step with the progress made by "glasnost." One distressed commentator, writing in Moscow News, suggested that the Soviet Union buy paper abroad to beat the shortage or pay foreign countries to recycle Soviet paper. Analysts said Grekov's disclosure of rising paper exports was likely to set off a new storm among a Soviet public unwilling to see its right to the written word abridged.

Bid to strengthen commercial ties

Kuwait, Denmark to sign economic pact

By Jeddika Porter

KUWAIT and Denmark are to sign today an economic co-operation agreement expected to extend the relations between the two countries beyond a mere exchange of goods, Danish Foreign Affairs Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said.

The agreement, to be signed by the Danish minister and Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al Khalid, will pave the way for a joint economic commission that will deal with trade as well as industrial

and technical issues, he said. Ellemann-Jensen is accompanied by a 30-member trade delegation, the largest Danish trade mission to ever visit Kuwait.

Strengthen
The Danes are seeking to strengthen their economic presence in Kuwait, particularly in construction, food processing, transportation, electronics, administration systems and production facilities.

Although Denmark's exports to Kuwait have fallen over the past two years, its share of the

local market grew, Ellemann-Jensen said. After Saudi Arabia, Kuwait is the largest importer of Danish goods in the Gulf, but Denmark's per capita exports to Kuwait exceed even those to Saudi Arabia.

Co-operation
Ellemann-Jensen said that the Danish state company for electronic data processing is negotiating with Kuwait's Finance Ministry about setting up a comprehensive data system in Kuwait. The Danish minister said that

the Danish delegation's visit to Kuwait was particularly well-timed because it comes in the wake of the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and after a GCC-EEC agreement on economic, commercial and technical co-operation.

Exports
Kuwaiti and Danish officials called for liberalisation of trade between the EEC and GCC countries. The GCC exports of refined petrochemical products are a contentious issue in the negotiations between the two groups.

No tariffs are being imposed on most of Gulf states' petrochemical exports to Europe. However, Ellemann-Jensen said that these exports are in direct competition with similar products from some of the EEC members, and threatens to worsen the unemployment problem in these countries.

The Danish minister said the EEC members will continue to give preferential treatment to GCC products but would like the Gulf states to reciprocate with similar arrangements for the EEC exports to the Gulf.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD rate slightly lower, dollar dips

Kuwaiti dinar
BASED on last week's opening middle market FX rates, the KD exchange rate was slightly lower against the US dollar, ending the week at 285.91 fils compared with its last closing the week before at 284.90 fils.

Against the pound sterling, the KD was lower ending the week at 481.13 fils compared with its week before last's closing of 480.20 fils.

The KD was slightly against the DM, ending the week at 152.36 fils, compared with its closing of 151.80 fils the week before.

The KD was also slightly lower against the SFR ending the week at 180.56 fils with its week before last closing at 180.15 fils. Against the JD, the KD was slightly higher ending the week at 755.30 fils.

The KD was mostly unchanged against the GCC currencies.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices weakened over the week, but improved late on Friday.

Early weakness stemmed from concern about tighter credit and a 431.69 point decline to 26,934.26 in the Nikkei index Tokyo Stock Market.

However, on Friday 3, a moderate rise in August employment dampened concern about inflation and brought the market to its sharpest rally in several months, with the Dow Jones gaining 55 points.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2041, then dropped to 2002 before it closed higher at 2055, recording a gain of 38 points over the week before last closing of 2017.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange weakened earlier in the week due to continuing concern over the UK's balance of payments position.

Late in the week, the major depressing influence was a steep fall on "Wall Street". Sterling's decline, and a subsequent rise in money market rates.

US dollar

The dollar was well - bid on technical and fundamental basis. Viewed as a high-yielding currency, the US dollar recorded gains especially against the Japanese yen.

However, the dollar's rally lost some steam in a sidelined market ahead of the release of US jobs data on Sept 2 awaiting a possible indication of Fed policy and thus the dollar trend. The market's recent focus centres on interest rate differentials among major industrial countries for buying or selling.

The dollar ended the week sharply lower with a change in sentiment on higher unemployment rate for August which showed an increase to 5.6 per cent from July's 5.4 per cent US jobless rate. There was also a lower-than-expected rise in non-form payroll jobs by 219,000 which is below the market's consensus forecast of a 225,000 rise. This was coupled with a downward revision in July's non-form payroll rise to 200,000 from 283,000 which pointed to a weakening in the US economy and thus a lessening of inflationary pressures and the Fed need to resort to further tightening.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the dollar at 134.50/60.

The yen eased to 136.50/55 yen before ending the week slightly higher at 135.85/95 yen, but below its week before last closing of 133.83/93.

The yen remained weak against the dollar, undermined by comparatively large interest rate differentials between Japanese and US rates.

The yen took a dip on news that the Japanese Finance Ministry may impose a 26 per cent tax on overseas sales of stocks brought before listing or registration for over-the-counter trading.

Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Sumita repeated the prime objective of Japan's monetary policy is to combat inflation and to maintain price stability.

Pound sterling

The pound sterling moved against the US dollar in a very tight trading range last week and was overshadowed by the yen's fall against the US dollar.

Later in the week, sterling declined sharply.

However, the Bank of England intervened to support the currency, promoting gains in money market rates.

On one hand, the weight of negative sentiment following a

record stg 2.15 billion UK July current account deficit appeared to be behind sterling's decline, while on the other hand, several large sell orders in New York in thin conditions were responsible for the sudden plunge.

A rise in August official reserves of \$827 million had little effect on sterling.

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week easier against the US dollar at 1.8720/30 marks but ended higher at 1.8520/30 marks, a shade firmer than its week before last closing at 1.8590/00 marks.

Market nervousness of Central Bank's intervention heightened at any small move. The mark benefited from a weaker dollar on higher US unemployment in August.

Last month, the release of strong US unemployment figure in July pushed the mark to a 19 months low against the dollar at 1.9250.

French franc

The French franc opened the week against the US dollar at 6.3510/40 FFR and closed higher at 6.2950/80 FFR compared to its week before last closing at 6.3135/65 FFR.

Consumer prices rose by 0.3 per cent in July, bringing year-on-year inflation to 2.7 per cent. The July inflation figure was well below the year-on-year price rise of 3.4 per cent posted in July 1987, but was fractionally up from 2.6 per cent in June.

Finance Minister P. Bérégovoy confirmed reports earlier last week that the official government estimate for growth this year will be revised to show more than 3 per cent and maybe close to 3.5 per cent.

Swiss franc

The Swiss franc opened the week against the US dollar at 1.5780/90 SFR and closed higher at 1.5555/65 SFR compared to its week before last closing of 1.5675/85 SFR.

According to the Swiss Association of Trade and Industry, rising exports, robust industrial production and growing domestic demand should keep

the Swiss economy strong and hold real economic growth over 2 per cent in 1988.

Oil prices

Oil prices in the world markets fell last week, to their mid-July levels.

Spot prices for North Sea Brent Crude were between 13.95 - 14.45 dollars per barrel range. Prices for October cargoes fell also to 14.20-14.65 dollars per barrel range.

US oil prices fell below 15 dollars per barrel, the lowest level in six weeks.

October crude oil contracts fell to 14.79 dollars per barrel. Oil prices are likely to remain within their current levels during September due to continued over supply in the world markets and high levels of stocks in the consuming countries.

However, prices are likely to improve in the fourth quarter of this year due to expected increase in the seasonal demand, provided that OPEC output ceiling is not exceeded.

Precious metals

Precious metals prices came under strain last week, suffering generally from a perception that major central banks are determined to curb inflationary pressures by raising interest rates.

Also, lower crude oil prices bolstered the view that inflationary pressures are under control.

Gold

Gold bullion prices opened the week at 428/428.50 dollars per ounce and ended lower at 427.75/428.25 dollars per ounce, recording a loss of around 4.25 dollars over the previous week's closing of 432/432.50 dollars per ounce.

Gold seems to have settled within a 10 dollar near-term range of about 425 to 435 dollars.

Silver

Silver bullion prices opened the week at 6.56/6.58 and closed lower at 6.55/6.57 dollars per ounce, losing 10 cents on average over the previous week's closing of 6.65/6.67 dollars per ounce.

Silver seems to be moving within a trading range of about 6.50 to 6.70 dollars per ounce.

Platinum

Platinum opened the week at 524/525.50 dollars per ounce and closed lower at 524/525.50 dollars per ounce, over the previous week's closing of 540.50/541.50 dollars per ounce.

OPEC problems will end eventually, says Subroto

OPEC secretary-general Subroto said yesterday the oil organisation would eventually overcome production and price problems.

"Harmony and cohesion will definitely return and all OPEC problems concerning production levels and prices will be solved gradually," Subroto told reporters before leaving for Qatar at the end of a visit to Kuwait.

But he said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries could not enforce strong and binding resolutions as long as the Iran-Iraq war dragged on and differences remained between the 13 members.

Iran's acceptance of a ceasefire in the war has triggered expectations among traders that regional producers might resume working together to strengthen the organisation. But peace talks between Iran and Iraq have made no progress and both sides are still hostile.

Production

According to a Reuters survey, OPEC produced about 20 million barrels per day (BPD) in August compared with its production ceiling of 15.06 million BPD.

Subroto arrived in Kuwait on Friday after talks in Iraq failed to bring Baghdad back into OPEC's quota system to stabilise oil prices.

Subroto, who also visited Tehran, said he went to Iraq and Iran to hear their points of view on production levels.

He said his talks in the area focussed on exploring "all ways and means to find a solution for pricing and production problems".

The Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday called on OPEC members to meet their responsibilities and support OPEC unity.

Cost of living still rising steadily in Turkey

ANKARA, Sept 4, (Reuters): The cost of living is still rising steadily in Turkey, official figures showed today, despite government predictions that austerity measures imposed in February would help to bring down inflation.

The State Institute of Statistics said prices rose by 3.4 per cent in August, following increases of 2.2 per cent in June and 2.8 per cent in July.

It said the annual retail inflation rate had now reached 78.4 per cent, compared with 38.9 per cent a year ago.

Package

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, defending February's economic package, had said he expected inflation to start falling after May.

He is facing a September 25 referendum on whether the date of local elections can be advanced to November, which would give him a poll-free period of four years in which to implement unpopular economic reforms.

Opposition parties on both the right and left, accusing Ozal of mismanaging the economy, say the referendum will be a vote of confidence in his policies.

Officials deny there will be public spending spree to woo voters before the polls.

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	1.080	1.070	1.070	1.070	40000	4
GULF BANK	0.430	0.420	0.420	0.420	180000	5
COMMERCIAL BK	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.315	220000	12
ABLI BANK	0.385	0.380	0.380	0.380	110000	8
B.K.M.E.	0.390					
K.R.E.B.	0.420					
BURGAM BANK	0.315	0.315	0.315	0.315	20000	1
K.F.HOUSE	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.520	185000	17
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
KMT INV. CO.	0.170					
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210					
K.I.I.C.	0.164					
CDM.FACILITIES	0.500					
ANLIAN INV.	0.000					
I.F.A.	0.100	0.102	0.102	0.100	60000	2
INV. PEARL KWT	0.108	0.106	0.106	0.100	60000	2
INSURANCE SECTOR						
KWT INSURANCE	0.730					
GULF INSURANCE	0.370					
ANLIA INS. CO.	0.580					
MARMA INS. CO.	0.455					
REAL EST SECTOR						
KWT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.236					
UNV R.E.S.T. CO.	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.110	220000	6
NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.216					
SALAHIA R.E.	0.080					
KWT PROJECTS	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.091	3320000	29
KWT R.E.I. CO.	0.000					
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
KAT IND. CO.	0.560					
KWT M.P. IND.	0.310					
KWT CEMENT CO.	0.255					
REF. IND. CO.	0.425					
H.A.M.T. CO.	0.000					
GULF CABLE	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070	20000	2
K.P.H. IND. CO.	0.208	0.218	0.218	0.212	160000	6
CONT. MARINE	0.350					
K.S.H. SEC. CO.	0.046					
SERVICES SECTOR						
OVERLAND TRANS	0.090					
K.M.C. CO.	0.190					
KUT HOTELS CO.	0.170					
P.WAREHOUSING	0.168	0.164	0.166	0.164	100000	5
CDM.WT. CMPT.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	80000	1
MOBILE TELE.	0.380	0.375	0.375	0.375	40000	3
KUT COMPUTER	0.184					
FOOD SECTOR						
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.232					
UNTD FISHERIES	0.154					
UNTD POULTRY	0.226					
KUT FOODS	0.315	0.300	0.300	0.300	40000	4
AGRI. FOOD PRD.	0.150					
NON-KWT SECTOR						
BHW. INTER. BK	0.068					
BHW. EAST. BK	0.047					
UNTD. GULF BK	0.000					
COAST INVEST.	0.108	0.106	0.106	0.106	220000	5
A.G. INV. CORP	0.035					
FIRST. GULF BK	0.620					
B.K.L.G.	0.080					

AMMAN

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
FINANCIAL SECTOR						
PEARL INV. CO.	0.098					
GULF INV. CO.	0.041					
GULF INTL INS	0.009					
ARAB INT CO.	0.055					
SHARJAH INS	0.000					
GULF UNION INS	0.070					
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR						
B-GULF MEDICAL	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	660000	6
C-N.K. WHITE CNT	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	240000	1
D-AMMAN CEMENT	0.007					
E-FUJAIH CENT	0.008					
F-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.010					
G-ULF CEMENT	0.016					
H-UMM QATWAIN	0.021					
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIKH PORT AS ON 4/9/88						
B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.			
5	Ibn Qutaibah	K.A.	4843150			
6	Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski A. Seas	G. Star	2421303			
8	Tug Abu Samir		4845501			
9	Barge Alia	A. Bahar	2459891			
10	Hual Margarita	ISA	2425467			
17	Evermore Clear	Barwil	4842988			
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIKH PORT						
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.			
5/9	Pelagos	Yaas	474553			
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIHA PORT						
B.No	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.			
2	Trade Freedom	M.A. Bahar	2433881			
16	Al Manakh	UASC	4843150			
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIHA PORT						
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.			
3/9	Autopos	M.A. Bahar	2433881			
6/9	Tor Bay	KMMC	2419814			
4/9	Sea Wind	Sager	2432696			
9/9	Trade Fair	M.A. Bahar	2433881			
10/9	Al Ihsa'a	UASC	4843150			
13/9	Al Wajba	UASC	4843150			
20/9	Al Noor	M.A. Bahar	2433881			
COMPILED BY:						
Alghanim Barber Shipping Co. PO Box 21708-Safat-Kuwait,						
Alghanim Industries Building-Shuwaikh-Airport Road, Tel.						
4842988, 4843988, ext. 3614						

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET					
FINANCIAL SECTOR	P.C.I.S	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL
-PEARL INV.CO.	0.098	----	----	----	----
-GULF INV.CO.	0.041	----	----	----	----
-GULF INTL INS	0.009	----	----	----	----
-ARAB INT CO.	0.055	----	----	----	----
-SHARJAH INS	0.000	----	----	----	----
-GULF UNION INS	0.070	----	----	----	----
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR					
B-GULF MEDICAL	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	660000
C-R.K.WHITE CHMT	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	240000
D-AMMAN CENT	0.007	----	----	----	----
E-FUJAIRAH CENT	0.008	----	----	----	----
F-SHARJAH CENT	0.010	----	G.star	----	----
G-GULF CENT	0.016	----	----	----	----
H-UHAI QATNAH	0.021	----	----	----	----

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS				
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 4/9/88				
B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.	
5	Ibn Qutaibah	KSA	4843150	
6	Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski A. Seas		2421303	
8	Tug Abu Samir	G. Star	4845501	
9	Barge Alia			
10	Hual Margarita	A. Bahar	2459891	
17	Evermore Clear	ISA	2425467	
14	Barwil Express	Barwil	4842988	
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT				
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.	
5/9	Pelagos	Yaas	474553	
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT				
B No	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.	
2	Trade Freedom	M.A. Bahar	2433881	
16	Al Manakh	UASC	4843150	
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT				
ETA.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.	
3/9	Atropos	M.A. Bahar	2433881	
6/9	Tor Bay	KMMC	2419814	
4/9	Sea Wind	Sager	2432696	
9/9	Trade Fair	M.A. Bahar	2433881	
10/9	Al Ihsa'a	UASC	4843150	
13/9	Al Wajba	UASC	4843150	
20/9	Al Noor	M.A. Bahar	2433881	
COMPILED BY:				
Alghanim Barber Shipping Co. PO Box 21708-Safat-Kuwait,				

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

Wanted

FAHD Al Salem Street or Mubarak Al Kabeer Street. A Keralite bachelor seeking accommodation to share with either an Indian family or bachelors. Tele. 4835304, 8 am - 1.30 pm. (AT2-43766-3)

For Rent

QURTUBA, villa: 2 floors with basement, CAC. Tele. Mr Abu Yusuf, 3262010, 9020589. (AT1-SL-AJ-6)

NEW Kheitan, 2 bedroom flat with carpet, curtains and wardrobe free, available from 15th August. Tele. 4742643. (AT3-43777-2)

FOR SALE

Computers

ORIGINAL Apple IIe computer, two floppy disks, monochrome monitor, 80-col printer, Apple works, KD220, Apple II+ compatible, two floppy disks, monitor, KD95. Tele. Mr Nisfat 4743392. (AT1-43746-3)

Cars

BUICK Park Avenue 81, metallic black with beige hardtop, single door, in top condition. KD1200. I can exchange with a Toyota Crown 83-85. Tele. 2422141 ext. 225, 7 am - 3 pm. (AT3-43783-3)

REQUIRED Plumbers & helpers immediately For Al Qurain Housing Project.
Tele: 2455228, 2455227

FOR RENT Villa
We have an excellent villa & 1/2, a complete floor for immediate rent.
For details
Tele: 5339280, 5339281

requires a photographer
with minimum of 5 years experience & a valid transferable residence.
Call 5749617, from 9 am - 12 noon & 4 - 6 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT
On the occasion of the relocation of the Golden Video, Video Film International announces to Golden Video members and customers that as of this date, their memberships are with Video Film International located at Mohammad Bin Al Qasem St, Hasawi.
We are also pleased to announce to our old and new customers the special rates, valid for one month, on the rental of cassettes.
KD1/- only for 3 films and KD10/- only for 60 films.
Hindi - Pakistani - Malayalam - Tamil - Bengali - English and wrestling films.
Mohammad Bin Al Qasem St, Hasawi. - Tel. 4344290

MOVING BACK HOME?

KMMC

KMMC offers you a quality removals service to any destination WORLD-WIDE
For free estimate call 2416529

A Gray Mackenzie Associate Co.

FOR RENT

Double flats at Alraya Residential Complex in Abu Halifah area. (3 bedrooms, maid room, 3 bathrooms, big sala) situated in an excellent location with area view from first floor.

Deluxe - central air conditioning - marble floor in saloon - wooden cabinets, furnished kitchen with cupboard, refrigerator and cooker.
Sauna - swimming pool - exercise room - parking - squash, tennis and basketball courts - supermarket and emergency power generating sets.

APPLE IIc complete computer system KD300,000, Hi Fi dual turntable, Technics, cassette, Sansui amplifier, Fisher speakers, acoustic guitar and tennis rackets. Tele. Dev. 3715181. (AT2-43757-3)

INDESIT electric oven, Soventrol tumble dryer, Brother H-1109 printer, plastic wardrobes - foldable. All are in excellent condition. Tele. 4719836, 8 am - 1 pm, 3 - 7 pm. (AT2-43764-3)

TENOR saxophone - Dione, brand new KD 200, scuba equipment, aluminium tank, US divers D.V., Nimrod ASLJ, compass, knife, torch, etc. KD 100. Brother electric typewriter KD 35. Tele. 4810369. (AT3-43785-3)

CARPETS, curtains, Indesit freezer, 2 Indesit small fridges, chest drawers, snooker table with accessories, writing desk, single beds, chairs etc for sale. Tele. Tanweer Hussain, 5620813, 10 am - 1 pm. (AT2-43748-3)

FOR RENT
A new deluxe villa, in Qurtuba area, comprising one floor and a basement, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a saloon, a hall, equipped kitchen with a European-style spacious basement. Also available telephone switchboard, intercom. All doors are remote-controlled.
For details call tele: 4710614, 4713490

Job opportunities
A leading company has the following vacancies:
1) Carpet cutters
2) Carpenters for fixing Italian-made furniture
3) Drivers
All applicants must have previous experience and valid transferable residence.
Abdulkarim Al Saquer Furniture and Carpets Showroom, Tunis Street - Hawalli

We require immediately for maintenance & repair of central A/C equipments with experience of not less than ten years.
- 5 Senior Mechanics.
- 1 Electric Welder/pipe erector for chilled water plants.
- 1 Senior A/C supervisor.
Contact Tele: 4732612/4713554

JOB VACANCY
We have a vacancy for a qualified electrician with the following qualifications.
1. 5 year's experience in: Electrical control systems design and assembly, generators, welding transformers, etc...
2. Kuwait driving licence
3. Transferable residence permit.
Contact 4816189/4817877/4817878
Qualified persons only need apply.

GRAND OPENING IN FAHAHEEL
Sagar Jewellers Co. w.l.l.



- ★ Specialists in 22 carat jewellery
- ★ Best designs in Indian & Singaporean jewellery
- ★ Competitive rates

Shop No. 3 Jassim Al Dabbous Bldg., opp. Municipality Office, Tele: 3920603

OFFICE furniture, desks, chairs, all good quality. Minolta photo copier, National telephone system, 2 electronic typewriters, draughtsman chair and board, plants. Tele. Tanweer Hussain, 5620813, 10 am - 1 pm. (AT2-43747-3)

Furniture

ONE bedroom furniture, KD150. Tele. 2649264. (AT2-LDS-AJ-3)

SERVICES

Baby Sitting

FARWANIYA near Mubarakiya Boys School. Tele. Rosy 4744936, 5-7 pm. (AT1-43743-3)

RAS SALMIYA behind "Farah Restaurant" Motherly care for babies given by an experienced lady, in a spacious flat. Tele. Bhatia, 4737732, 9 am - 1 pm. (AT3-43768-3)

Transport

REQUIRED for a lady from Maidan Hawalli to the British Council, Mansouriyah, Saturday through Wednesday, office timings: 7.30 am - 1.30 pm. Tele. Mrs Pereira, 2533204, 2533227. (AT3-43772-2)

GENERAL SERVICE

For all your shifiting with transportation, painting, wall papering, carpet & villa cleaning. We are at your service, with skilled workers.
Contact tel: 4748877/4731004. Timings - 8.00 am - 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm - 8.00 pm. Al Mawassim Trdg.

REQUIRED from Sharq to Fahheel 5.40 am and Fahheel to Sharq 4.45 pm Saturday to Wednesday. Tele. Mr Alex 3952383, 3952558, 7 am - 4 pm. (AT1-43744-3)

Tuition

HINDI, English, Maths, from II to VII Stds., given by an experienced teacher everyday, in Salmiya near Indian School, Bld. No. 14, Flat No. 18. Tele. 5614310. (AT2-43754-3)

REQUIRED for one boy of Indian school class II in the morning in Salmiya near the Indian School. Tele. Valsan, 5620236 after 4 pm. (AT2-43754-3)

ENGLISH, reading, study skills for high school, college, adults given by an American teacher at your home or at my home. Tele. 5332567. (AT2-43762-12)

PRE-SCHOOL coaching - nursery, for 2-1/2 years old onwards, given by an experienced teacher in a CAC flat in Alraq Kheitan. Tele. 4737732, 9 am - 1 pm. (AT3-43768-3)

MATHEMATICS made very easy by special tuition, extra training for those who aim 100% marks in classes IX, X, XI and XII. Tele. Mr Kurup, 5632128. (AT2-43756-3)

Steiner Beauty School at Al Remal Est.

Which has the British Royal warrant and complies with the confederation of beauty therapy & naildressing standards offers: Makeup courses starting on 21/10/89 for male & female. Registration is open. Saloon treatment will be offered at reasonable rate.

AL REMAL EST.
Anwar Al Sabah Complex, Block 28 3rd Floor, Office No. 1
Tele. 2429811/2429888
From 10 am to 8 pm.

NURSERY for children, entering the L.K.G. & U.K.G. of the Indian schools syllabus given by a graduate in a CAC apartment behind Burgan Bank H.O., Sharq. Tele. 2422757. (AT2-43761-2)

PRE-SCHOOL training for children from 3 years old and English from grade 1 to 9 given by an experienced Montessori teacher. Tele. 5616390 10 am onwards. (AT1-43742-3)

SITUATIONS

Wanted

DRIVER (with light licence) Indian, 7 years experience in Kuwait with good knowledge of Arabic and English, with transferable residence No. 18, seeks full-time job. Tele. 5323128, 8 am - 7 pm. (AT5-43790-3)

MAID, Sri Lankan, with experience and a good command of English, seeks full-time or part-time job with or without accommodation. Please tele. 5320443, 8 - 11 am. (AT2-43759-3)

AN experienced financial accountant, seeks senior position. Please Tele. Mr Zuber, 2433770 9 am - 1 pm and 4-8 pm. (AT1-43748-3)

Electronic Shop, Sulimiyah

Has changed Tele No. to: 5617312 (from 1/9/88)

Specialist in training packages in Wordstar Basic Programming Lotus & Dbase III+ (Behind Indian School)

MAID Indian, with 18 years experience in Kuwait, speaks English and Arabic, seeks full-time job. Tele. 3900541, 8 am - 5 pm. (AT3-43780-2)

Vacant

MAID required, Muslim, for a small Egyptian family full-time or part-time. Tele. 9037679. (AT2-43753-3)

MAID required, Filipino, for an European family with two children. Tele. 2438120, 10 am - 12.30 pm, 1.30 - 5 pm. (AT2-AG-AL-2)

MAID required for an European family to live-in. Must have a transferable residence. Tele. 5829779. (AT2-43760-3)

FOR RENT

Villas, 1/2 villas, flats, apartments, stores, etc., in all areas of Kuwait.

Messiah Beach Real Estate
Tele. 2401858
2408510

A Special offer
Give one film for developing & printing and get one enlargement print size 20 x 25 cm free. Well known for best quality & good work.

RAJU STUDIO
Al Moji Complex, Margab

MAID required for a small Indian family to live-in. Experience with babies is a must. Must have a transferable residence. Tele. 4347902, res. 9 am - 2 pm, 5 - 9 pm. (AT2-43765-3)

PETS

GERMAN Shepherd dog, female, for sale. Price: KD250. Tele. 4865546, 1.30 - 2.30 pm, and 5-7 pm. (AT1-43741-3)

WANTED

A SECONDHAND harmonium (made in India) required urgently. Tele. 5744436 after 4 pm. (AT1-43745-3)

FOR RENT

Villas, half villas, buildings, and flats with or without swimming pool

Al Azraq Real Estate
Tel. 2452199; 2452198

HATID LIGAYA PHILIPPINES DOOR TO DOOR

FREE DELIVERY TO LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
ABUGHOSH INT'L
TEL. 484-3447
SARAH

ADVERTISING IN THE

ARAB TIMES

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Cost, KD4 for 2 consecutive days and KD5 for 3 consecutive days. There is a limitation of 25 words including name, number and time, per advertisement.

STYLE 2 CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS
It is contained within its own distinctive border. Photographs, name blocks and company logos may be used in classified display advertisements. A special rate is given to advertisements that run for 6 consecutive days on the classified page.

STYLE 3 COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS
Again it is contained within its own distinctive border. Colour, both spot and full, is available depending on which page the advertisement is placed, at the cost of 25% extra, per colour. This type of advertisement promotes products and services available to the public.

HOW TO SUBMIT CLASSIFIED
Advertisements will only be accepted when sent in on the Arab Times classified coupon or preferably, completed at the Arab Times Advertising Department.

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY
Advertisements should be submitted with the text typed or clearly printed, with any artwork enclosed.

COMMERCIAL
Advertisements should be submitted with the film, artwork or bromides complete and ready for printing. Always confirm with the Arab Times Advertising Department on sizing, well before placing your advertisement.

EDITING
All advertisements are subject to editing. Therefore, it would be advisable to submit the advertisement at least two days before, if one should wish to see the edited copy before being printed.

DEADLINES
All advertisements should be submitted no later than 6pm.

If you have any inquiries, telephone or write to:
Arab Times Advertising Dept.
P.O. Box 2270
13023, SAFAT
Kuwait
Tele. 4816326/7

ARAB TIMES

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2 insertions KD 4. Three insertions KD 5

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 - Advertisements must not exceed 25 words including name and telephone number.
 - Text must be typed or clearly printed. No alterations or cancellations will be made after publication.
 - Advertisements of personal nature involving business transactions will not be accepted, nor any matrimonial advertisements.
 - The Arab Times is not responsible for postal delays.

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ARAB TIMES CLASSIFIEDS
P.O. BOX: 2270
13023 SAFAT KUWAIT.

SPORTS

MECIR AND LECONTE CRASH OUT

Edberg and Graf avoid upset wave



Edberg crushed Carlsson

NEW YORK, Sept. 4, (Reuters): Upsets swept through the US Open field again yesterday, but Wimbledon champions Stefan Edberg and Steffi Graf easily avoided the plague.

Also moving into the round of 16 were Mats Wilander and Chris Evert on a day that saw five seeded players ousted, three of them in succession on the heated grandstand court.

Edberg, the third seed, easily beat his fellow Swede Johan Carlsson 6-0 7-5 6-2 in the featured night match at the National Tennis Centre.

Losing on outside courts were eighth-seeded Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia and Sylvia Hanika of West Germany (15).

Perfect Among those eliminated on the grandstand court, where eight of the tournament's 14 upsets have taken place, were 10th-seeded Henri Leconte of France, Andres Gomez of Ecuador (14) and American Lori McNeil (9).

Edberg won his opening set in 20 minutes, losing just seven points. "I was doing everything perfect in the beginning," Edberg, a semifinalist here last year, said.

lead. But Edberg remained his composure, sweeping the last three games.

"You have to treat every match with respect," Edberg said of his third-round match and the rash of upsets. "I feel my game is coming around."

The second-seeded Wilander, the reigning Australian and French Open champion, had no problems beating his Swedish compatriot Mikael Pernfors 6-4 6-0 7-5.

Graf kept smoothly on track for her first US Open crown and the completion of the treasured Grand Slam by overwhelming Nathalie Herremann of France 6-0 6-1.

Through three rounds Graf has lost just four games. "Surely I want to have a tougher match, that is definite," the West German teenager said. "I just keep hoping that the next one will be tougher."

Graf will next meet American Patty Fendick, who upset Graf's countrywoman Hanika 6-7 (4-7) 6-3 7-5.

Third-seeded Evert was far from perfect, making 35 unforced groundstroke errors, but she was good enough to beat her fellow American Michelle Torres 6-3 6-3.

Gomez made more than 70 unforced errors as American Aaron Krickstein beat him 6-4-4.

66-46-4. "My arm got tired and I started making a lot of mistakes," he said.

Leconte, runner-up at this year's French Open, was eliminated by Australian John Frawley 6-3 6-4 6-3.

Frawley is the fourth Australian to have played the giant killer's role this week (Boris Becker, Yannick Noah and John McEnroe were all beaten by little-known Australian players).

"I have always thought that the Australians had the talent to be up with the big guns, it is just starting to come through right now," Frawley said.

Frawley, number 45 in the world, next plays another of yesterday's surprise winners, Emilio Sanchez of Spain.

The 21st-ranked Sanchez knocked out Mecir, the 1986 US Open runner-up, 6-3 6-7 (7-3) 6-1. The Spaniard has beaten Mecir three times in a row. "I don't think he's one of the toughest," Sanchez said. "The toughest are the guys who never miss and who you have to beat always."

An Open semifinalist a year ago, McNeil said she played too cautiously on crucial points in the final set as Austrian Judith Wiesner rose to the task, 7-6 (7-3) 3-6 6-4. "I didn't take a crack at the ball. I was too cautious," McNeil said.

Barcelona kick off season with win

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept. 4, (Reuters): Barcelona, hoping new manager Johan Cruyff can give them the shine they lacked last season, kicked off the Spanish soccer season yesterday with an encouraging 2-0 win at home to local rivals Espanol.

Given a thorough shake-up over the summer after finishing sixth in the League, Barcelona fielded no fewer than seven new players and they looked a happier side.

Cruyff, star player with Barcelona during the 1970s, joined an almost capacity crowd of 80,000 to watch the Catalan derby from the stands, his place on the sidelines benching him last season's problems.

Hearts dominated the first half, but the goals came when Espanol, traditionally Barcelona's poor neighbours but surprise runners-up in last season's UEFA Cup, were playing their first.

Alto Beguiristain, bought from Basque side Real Sociedad, scored with a left-foot drive into the corner of the goal in the 62nd minute.

Roberto Fernandez, one of the few old hands to survive the sacking of 12 players, scored two minutes later with a penalty which Cameroun goalkeeper Thomas N'Kono could only touch and deflect into the goal.

N'Kono recovered from his disappointment to make several fine saves in the closing minutes as Barcelona warmed to their task.

Depleted "The second half, especially, was very good," said England striker, Gary Lineker, still recovering from hepatitis and unable to play yet.

Howard Kendall's Bilbao Athletic, with four young club players making playing their debut for the first time, meanwhile got off to a resounding start with a 3-0 win at home to Sevilla.

The Basques were in control throughout, forcing Sevilla to put back all their players except Austrian striker Anton Polster.

Striker Pedro Urabe scored in the 15th minute, Joseba Aguirre made it 2-0 in the 57th and Urabe headed the ball home to complete the battering six minutes from the end.

Athletic's local rivals Real Sociedad, coached by Welshman John Toshack, lost 1-0 away to Real Oviedo, back in the First Division after 13 years. The visitors, depleted by summer defections to Barcelona, were surprised five minutes from the whistle by a clever goal from Berto Martinez.

Belenseses sail past Portimonense

LISBON, Sept. 4, (Reuters): Belenseses, managed by Englishman John Mortimore, trounced Portimonense 4-0 yesterday to maintain their 100 per cent record and stay top of the Portuguese First Division.

Two goals from Bulgarian striker Stoytcho Mladenov helped Belenseses to their third win in three games and kept the unfashionable Lisbon side one point clear of the pack.

Champions Porto struggled to a 2-1 home win over Espinho in their match also brought forward because of this week's European club fixtures.

Gooden takes Mets past Dodgers

NEW YORK, Sept. 4, (AP): The New York Mets are turning the battle of National League East Division leaders into no battle at all.

Dwight Gooden allowed six hits in eight-plus innings and outdueled John Tudor as the Mets beat Los Angeles 2-1 yesterday for their 10th victory in 11 games with the Dodgers this season.

The Mets, dominating the National League West-leading Dodgers, have held Los Angeles to four runs, in their last five meetings.

Career "Our pitching is awfully good right now," Mets manager Davey Johnson said. "The staff is speaking."

Gooden, 16-6, improved his career record against the Dodgers to 8-1. He struck out five and walked one but needed relief help from Randy Johnson and Mickey Hatcher singled to open the ninth.

Kevin McReynolds, leading a Mets' lineup that had a 300 average against Tudor, went 3-for-3 against the left-hander and 3-for-4 on the day. McReynolds is 6-for-10 this season versus Tudor and 14-for-36 in his career.

In other National League

games, Cincinnati beat Chicago 6-4, San Diego defeated Philadelphia 5-2, Houston routed St. Louis 10-1, and Montreal took San Francisco 6-4 in 13 innings. Pittsburgh and Atlanta were rained out.

In Chicago, Nick Esasky hit a three-run homer and Paul O'Neill had two doubles and a triple as the Reds won their fourth straight. Cincinnati reliever John Franco allowed no hits in 1-3 innings to earn his National League-leading 31st save in 32 opportunities.

San Diego's Ed Whitson pitched an eight-inning and Keith Moreland's two-run single broke a sixth-inning tie as the Padres reached the .500 mark for the first time in over two years. Philadelphia has lost three straight and 16 of their last 19.

Houston ace Nolan Ryan allowed four hits and struck out seven in seven innings and Rafael Ramirez's two-run single highlighted a six-run second as the Astros snapped the Cardinals' five-game winning streak, 10-1.

Ryan, 10-11, has 204 strikeouts this season. It was his 12th season with 200 or more strikeouts, extending his own Major-League record. In Ryan's previous four starts, the Astros had scored four runs. Dave

Meads and Brian Meyer, making his Major-League debut, closed.

And in Montreal, Nelson Santovenia hit a two-run homer with two outs in the 13th inning to give the Expos a 6-4 victory over slumping San Francisco.

Luis Rivera walked with two outs off reliever Rogers Samuels, 0-2, before Santovenia hit his second homer of the game and seventh of the season.

Jose Canseco and Mark McGwire both tried to deliver knockout punches. Canseco succeeded.

Canseco hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning off recently acquired reliever Dale Mohoric as the Athletics beat New York 5-4 yesterday in a fight-marred game in Oakland.

Despite the loss, the third-place Yankees remained four games back of Detroit in the AL East. The Tigers lost 7-3 to Milwaukee.

Downed In other American League games, Toronto defeated Texas 7-4, Minnesota downed Kansas City 8-6, California edged Boston 2-1 and Seattle won 1-0 over Baltimore. Chicago and the Indians were postponed by rain in Cleveland.

After Canseco put the A's

ahead with his Major-League leading 35th home run, Carney Lansford doubled and Neil Allen replaced Mohoric, 2-7. Pinch-hitter Dave Parker struck out and Allen then hit Mark McGwire on the helmet with a pitch.

McGwire charged Allen and both benches emptied as players from both sides gathered around the mound. McGwire and Allen wrestled but it didn't appear any punches were thrown. Allen and McGwire were both ejected.

"I was just trying to figure out where I was going when his body got there," said Allen, who threw his hands up as the 6-foot-5 (195-centimetre) McGwire charged him, and firmly denied any intent of throwing at McGwire.

"I don't care whether it was intentional or unintentional," McGwire said. "The ball hit me in the head. It's amazing. I get hit in the head three times in two years, and it's not intentional! I wasn't going to let it pass again."

In Detroit, Joey Meyer hit a three-run homer and Jeffrey Leonard added a two-run shot as Milwaukee won 7-3 to send the Tigers to their 10th loss in 12 games. It was the fourth-place Brewers' fifth straight victory and moved them within five games of first place and one game of third-place New York.

Scandinavian riders triumph

GOTEBORG, Sweden, Sept. 4, (AP): Scandinavian motocross riders are dominating the inaugural World Championship series after the second of six stops on the tour, at rain-drenched Ullevi stadium.

Pekka Vehkonen of Finland, a Caviva rider, overcame two spills on Friday night on the mud-bogged course and won the rain-delayed 10-lap final ahead of Swedes Peter Hansson and Leif Niklasson.

Ricky Ryan, 22, a Suzuki rider from the United States, took the start but lost the lead to Hansson after a few laps and then battled with Niklasson for third the rest of the way.

Cottee firepower gives Everton cutting edge



Cottee during his debut for Everton last week.

LONDON, Sept. 4, (Reuters): England striker Tony Cottee repaid a slice of his four-million-dollar transfer fee yesterday with the goal that lifted Everton above Liverpool to the top of the English soccer First Division after just two games.

Cottee, who left West Ham for Everton in a blaze of publicity in one of English soccer's major close season transfers, followed his opening-day hat-trick against Newcastle with a decisive header in the 1-0 triumph at Coventry.

Evidence It not only secured all three points for Everton, but also provided more evidence that team manager Colin Harvey had not been over-extravagant in his continuing search for a striker to partner Scottish international Graeme Sharp.

For years, both before and since England striker Gary Lineker left Everton after only one year for Barcelona of Spain following his success at the 1986 World Cup finals, the club have sought the perfect foil for Sharp in attack.

Now, even Sharp conceded they may have found the answer. "These partnerships always take a little time to gel — and it's early days yet — but I am very optimistic that we will hit it off," Sharp

said.

"I think Tony must be very relieved to have come up here away from London. Now he will be able to prove all the people who made wisecracks are wrong. "All the transfer talk is over. He's starting afresh at a new club and I am sure he has made the right decision. He will certainly be getting a better service here than he did at West Ham."

Cottee has already declared an ambition to emulate Lineker's achievement at Everton in 1985-86 by scoring 30 League goals in a season and forcing his way into the England team.

England manager Bobby Robson, who watched him in action at Coventry, has yet to pick him for England's starting line-up but has sent him on as a substitute three times.

Cottee now hopes his scoring feats for the Merseyside club will earn him a call-up for England's friendly meeting with Denmark at Wembley on September 17.

While Cottee collected the goal, he had to share the glory with goalkeeper Neville Southall, who saved a penalty in an outstanding display.

Greg Downs in the second half was on a par with the one Gordon Banks made from Pele in the Mexico World Cup. He was brilliant."

After yesterday's second full programme of English First Division fixtures, Everton shared the lead with Southampton, city rivals Liverpool and Norwich.

All have six points. Southampton, 1-0 winners at Queens' Park Rangers thanks to a 16th minute goal by Matthew Le Tissier, have an identical goals and points record.

Champions and perennial rivals Liverpool ended an eight-year jinx when they beat Manchester United 1-0 at Anfield

Jansher edges Dittmar for title



Jansher (left) and Dittmar: battle it out

HONG KONG, Sept. 4, (Reuters): World number one Jansher Khan held off a determined challenge by Chris Dittmar for the second time in a week to retain his Hong Kong Open title today.

The Pakistani top seed won a physically punishing final 15-11 9-15 15-6 12-15 15-10 just seven days after an equally grueling five game-victory over Dittmar earned him the New Zealand Open crown.

Jansher beat Dittmar 9-0 9-7 5-9 7-9 7-1 in Auckland and both players opened today's final cautiously, seemingly content to rally from the back of the court.

Dittmar, who blamed his New Zealand defeat on a slow start, began well this time but looked a little slow in the third and fourth games when he failed to reach a number of drop-shots.

Dittmar said after the 89 minute-match that the warm court conditions had tested both players.

"These were tougher conditions than in New Zealand last week — it was real attrition out there," he said.

Fourth seed Rodney Martin of Australia beat New Zealander Ross Norman, seeded third, 15-14 15-13 11-15 15-10 in the third place play-off.

South African rugby official

CAPE TOWN, Sept. 4, (Reuters): A South African rugby official has secretly met the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement in a bid to reduce the country's sporting isolation, a sports official said today.

Danie Craven, chairman of the South African Rugby Board, said that ANC members were present at secret talks between South Africa and African countries held in Europe.

Transvaal rugby chief Louis Luyt had represented South Africa because Craven was too ill to travel.

"People are ascribing bad motives to this because everybody is against the ANC. Their name is a red rag to a bull."

"Our motive is a pure one. We didn't want to disclose it because the more you speak about the thing the less you advance," Craven told Reuters from his home in the Cape Province town of Stellenbosch.

"The object is simply this. We were at one time affiliated to all countries surrounding us right up to Kenya. Those affiliations have been broken."

"We want to renew them... we want to be part of the African Games in the not too distant future," he said.

The Johannesburg Sunday Times newspaper reported today that Luyt met African sports administrators and ANC executives in London last March. In June, Luyt travelled to Frankfurt to meet ANC information director Thabo Mbeki, it said.

A meeting between the ANC, fighting to end white domination in South Africa, and senior white rugby officials is unprecedented. The government blamed the ANC for a huge car bomb which exploded outside Johannesburg's Ellis Park stadium minutes after a rugby match in July, killing two people.

Rugby, followed avidly by whites, has been one of the sports worst hit by the ANC-backed sporting boycott called in protest at apartheid.

An international rugby tour of South Africa was called off days before it was due to start last month when only a handful of players braved the boycott to join the squad.

Craven said the talks, which he described as "difficult but friendly," had produced results but he refused to elaborate.

US brush aside Italy

MILAN, Italy, Sept. 4, (AP): Home runs by Tino Martinez and Ty Griffin paced the United States to an 11-1 victory over Italy yesterday and set up a clash with defending champion Cuba, which also remained unbeaten in the World Baseball Championship with a 15-5 win over the Netherlands.

In other games yesterday South Korea defeated Spain 9-2, Taiwan beat the Netherlands Antilles 9-1, Japan crushed Canada 8-1 and Nicaragua edged Puerto Rico 6-5.

Attack

Cuba got a two-run homer from Luis Casanova and a solo shot from Juan Castro in an 18-hit attack. The Netherlands, 2-9, managed five runs on six hits in the first four innings, including a solo homer by Gerlach Halder-

College Football

Miami blast Florida in opener

NEW YORK, Sept. 4, (AP): The defending national champion Miami Hurricanes got the 1988 college football season off on the right foot with a 31-0 rout of the top-ranked team, Florida State.

Steve Walsh passed for two touchdowns and Cleveland Gary ran for one and the sixth-ranked Hurricanes completely overwhelmed the No. 1 Seminoles last night.

In other games marking the first full day of the College Football season, No. 2 Nebraska routed Utah State 63-13, No. 4 Clemson bombed Virginia Tech 40-7, No. 5 UCLA overpowered San Diego State 59-6, No. 17 Louisiana State shocked No. 11 Texas A-and-M 27-0, No. 12 Georgia defeated No. 18 Tennessee 28-17, No. 16 West Virginia walloped Bowling Green 62-14, and No. 19 South Carolina whipped North Carolina 31-10.

Field

In a late game in Hawaii, No. 8 Iowa lost to the Rainbows 27-24 as freshman Hawaii place-kicker Jason Elam hit two fourth-quarter field goals.

Miami used a lightning-quick defence to smother one of the nation's most explosive offenses, limiting Florida State to 91 yards in the first half and permitting the Seminoles to cross midfield just twice in the first two periods.

So dominant was the Hurricanes' defence that FSU tailback Sammie Smith, who rushed for a school record 1,330 yards a year ago, was held to just six yards, a career low, on 18 carries.

Miami's record against No. 1 teams in the 1980s is 6-0. It also was the sixth straight year in which the Hurricanes have defeated the team ranked No. 1 in the Associated Press preseason poll.

Second-ranked Nebraska ran its record to 2-0 as quarterback Steve Taylor ran for two touchdowns and passed for one to lead the Cornhuskers past Utah State 63-13.

Quarterback Rodney Williams scored once and directed Clemson's option offense in a 24-point second-period outburst as the fourth-ranked Tigers defeated Virginia Tech 40-7.

Darryl Henley returned a punt 89 yards for a touchdown after just 3:25 of play and Troy Aikman threw three first-half scoring passes as UCLA overpowered San Diego State 59-6.

LSU overcame a bad night by quarterback Tommy Hodson and ground out a methodical 27-0 victory over Texas A-and-M on the strength of a defence led by linebacker Ron Sancho.

Results

- Top twenty college football teams faced this week and schedule for Sept. 10:
- No. 1 Florida State (0-1-0) lost to No. 6 Miami, Florida 31-0, vs Southern Mississippi.
- No. 2 Nebraska (2-0-0) beat Utah State 63-13, at No. 5 UCLA.
- No. 3 Oklahoma (0-0-0) was idle, at North Carolina.
- No. 4 Clemson (1-0-0) beat Virginia Tech 40-7 vs Furman.
- No. 5 UCLA (1-0-0) beat San Diego State 59-6 vs No. 2 Nebraska.
- No. 6 Miami, Florida (1-0-0) beat No. 1 Florida State 31-0, is idle.
- No. 7 Auburn (0-0-0) was idle vs Kentucky.
- No. 8 Southern Cal (1-0-0) beat Boston College 34-7, at Stanford.
- No. 9 Iowa (0-1-0) lost to Hawaii 27-24, at Kansas State.
- No. 10 Michigan (0-0-0) was idle, at No. 13 Notre Dame.
- No. 11 Texas A-and-M (0-2-0) lost to No. 17 Louisiana State 27-0 is idle.
- No. 12 Georgia (1-0-0) beat No. 18 Tennessee 28-17, vs Texas Christian.
- No. 13 Notre Dame (0-0-0) was idle, vs No. 10 Michigan.
- No. 14 Alabama (0-0-0) was idle, at Temple.
- No. 15 Michigan State (0-0-0) beat Bowling Green 62-14, vs Fullerton State.
- No. 16 West Virginia (1-0-0) beat Bowling Green 62-14, vs Fullerton State.
- No. 17 Louisiana State (1-0-0) beat No. 11 Texas A-and-M 27-0, is idle.
- No. 18 Tennessee (0-1-0) lost to No. 12 Georgia 28-17, vs Duke.
- No. 19 South Carolina (1-0-0) beat North Carolina 31-10, vs Western Carolina.
- No. 20 Penn State (0-0-0) was idle, at Virginia.

man and then only one hit in the next four against three Cuban pitchers.

Pat Combs and Mike Milchin combined to hold Italy to just three hits. Combs got the win. Roberto Caballero was the loser for Italy, 4-7.

The US and Cuban wins set the stage for this evening's game between the two teams which at 10-0 have already clinched the top positions going into Tuesday's semifinals of the 12-team tournament.

Today's game was to determine the semifinal opponents for Cuba and the United States. The winner will be the first-place team and will play the fourth-place squad on Tuesday, while the loser must play the third-place team.

Taiwan and Japan are tied for third with records of 7-3.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Masters golf

CRANS, Switzerland, Sept. 4. (AP): Chris Moody of England today won the 1.05 million franc (\$677,000) European Masters golf tournament by one stroke, upsetting favourite Severiano Ballesteros of Spain, this year's British Open champion. Moody shot a seven-under-par 65 today, bringing his four-round total to 268, or 20-under-par on the Alpine course. He had been three strokes behind going into the final round.

Memorial cricket

THE first General Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed Memorial Cricket Tournament is scheduled to start soon, according to the organiser Haji Liaquat. The draws for the tournament will be held at the Lalazar Restaurant on Sept 9 at 8.00 pm. For further information contact: Altaf Khan. Tel: 3292107 ext. 37 (8 am to 1.00 pm) or Naveed Ahmed. Tel: 3926007.

Charity Classic

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Sept. 4. (Reuters): American Donna White used brilliant iron play for what she called an easy 66 yesterday to take a one-stroke lead after the first round of the LPGA tour's \$250,000 Charity Classic.

Canadian Open

OAKVILLE, Ontario, Sept. 4. (Reuters): American Ken Green eagled the 13th hole in a four-under-par round that gave him a two-stroke lead after the third round of the \$750,000 Canadian Open golf championship yesterday.

Taylor triumphs

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Sept. 4. (Reuters): Olympic champion Meldrick Taylor took the International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior welterweight title from Buddy McGirt yesterday by stopping the former champion at two minutes of the 12th round.

Title fight

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept. 4. (Reuters): Mexico's Gilberto Roman retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-flyweight crown today after scoring a unanimous points victory over Japanese challenger Kiyoshi Hatanaka.

Pical wins

JAKARTA, Sept. 4. (Reuters): Indonesia's Elyas Pical retained his International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior bantamweight title today by beating South Korean challenger Kim Chang Ki on points in a 12-round bout.

Morten Olsen

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 4. (UPI): Due to a serious groin injury, Denmark's veteran libero Morten Olsen will not play his 100th international this year as planned, but will have to wait till 1989 for his farewell performance for the Danish side.

Final appearance

LONDON, Sept. 4. (UPI): World javelin champion Fatima Whitbread will make her final appearance in Britain before the Seoul Olympics when she competes at a club meeting on Sept. 9.

Soccer violence

LONDON, Sept. 4. (UPI): West Ham United stepped up its campaign against soccer violence, banning 16 supporters for life. Secretary Tom Finn said the club had consulted police on the action, and that if any of the 16 try to enter Upton Park they will be refused admission. If they are found inside the ground, they will be ejected and charged with trespassing.

Ban lifted

SEOUL, Sept. 4. (Reuters): Olympic athletes will be free to toast victories or drown sorrows now that Games village authorities have lifted a liquor ban.

Auto race

GOTEMBA, Japan, Sept. 4. (AP): Kazuyoshi Hoshino started from the pole position in a Cabin TSS and won the final auto race of the six-event Grand Champion Series today.

Sportscar race

NUERBURGRING, West Germany, Sept. 4. (Reuters): Jean-Louis Schlesser won the duel against the powerful Jaguar teams to give Mercedes their third World Sportscar Championship victory of the year in the 1,000 km race here today.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Habara Bridge Cup game held on Saturday: S/S 1. Captain Salman & K.T. Simon 2. Nabil Akel & Sheria Basyouni 3. Ghanim & Saymeh E/W 1. Mrs Pereira & Mrs D'Souza 2. Ezzeldin & Ahmed Tawil 3. Maktar & Gajjar

LAMB AND LABROOY SHINE

Barnett leads England to victory

LONDON, Aug. 4. (Reuters): Kim Barnett looked to have booked his place on the forthcoming tour of India with a fine 84 which led England to a five-wicket win in their one-day cricket match against Sri Lanka at the Oval today.

Chasing Sri Lanka's score of 242 for seven in their 55 overs, Barnett played the anchor role after England had lost openers Graham Gooch and Tim Robinson for 22.

Denied

He shared in a third wicket partnership of 118 with Allan Lamb and was denied a century only by a superb piece of fielding by Athula Samarasekera, who made a magnificent stop and then hurled the ball back while still on his knees to run Barnett out.

Sri Lanka fielded splendidly throughout but with Lamb scoring 66 and Rob Bailey 43 not out, England reached their target with 14 balls to spare.

But the visitors were far from outclassed. After losing the toss and being asked to bat, all their batsmen reached double figures, with former captain Duleep Mendis top-scoring with 60.

He faced only 65 balls and



Lamb: scored 66

blasted a six and six fours before finally becoming one of paceman Gladstone Small's three victims. Somewhat surprisingly, Gooch was England's most economical bowler, taking two wickets for 35 in 11 overs with his

gentle medium pace, while off-spinner Vic Marks, in his first international for three years, had a disappointing return of none for 59 in his 11.

Paceman Graeme Labrooy was Sri Lanka's most effective



Labrooy: three for 40

bowler, taking three for 40 in 10 overs.

Scoreboard

SRI LANKA
B. Karuppu lbw b Gooch 38
A. Samarasekera b Small 10
A. de Silva b Gooch 16

A. Ranatunga run out 37
D. Mendis b Small 60
R. Madugalle c Foster b Fringle 17
R. Ratnayake c Fringle b Small 19
H. Tillakaratne not out 15
G. Labrooy not out 10
Extras (b-1 lb-10 w-8 nb-1) 20
Total (for seven wickets - 55 overs) 242 - innings closed.
Fall of wickets: 1-21 2-54 3-75 4-144 5-190 6-193 7-224
Did not bat: R. Madsenasinghe, D. Amarasinghe
Bowling: Foster 11-0-47-0, Small 11-4-46-1, Marks 11-0-59-0
ENGLAND
G. Gooch c De Silva b Labrooy 7
T. Robinson lbw b Ratnayake 13
K. Barnett run out 84
A. Lamb c sub b Labrooy 66
R. Smith c Karuppu b Labrooy 9
R. Bailey not out 43
D. Fringle not out 19
Extras (w-3 nb-1) 4
Total (five wickets - 52.4 overs) 245
Fall of wickets: 1-9 2-22 3-140 4-154 5-213
Did not bat: J. Russell, V. Marks, N. Foster, G. Small
Bowling: Ratnayake 9.4-3-37-1, Labrooy 10-0-40-3, Samarasekera 11-0-52-0, Ranatunga 11-0-42-0, Amarasinghe 6-0-31-0, De Silva 2-0-19-0, Madsenasinghe 3-0-24-0
Result: England won by five wickets.

Chinese sweep badminton titles

BANGKOK, Sept. 4. (Reuters): Chinese world champions Yang Yang and Han Aiping snatched the World Cup singles titles from compatriots today.

Yang added this title to the world crown he took last year by whipping titleholder Zhao Jianhua 15-6 15-6 in a 44-minute battle. The women's title also changed hands with Han beating Li Lingwei 5-11 11-6 11-0 in just five minutes more.

Yang, shorter but faster, lost a three-game final to Zhao at this event in Kuala Lumpur last year, and today he was bent on

revenge. He maintained constant pressure on Zhao and forced many errors. Zhao smashed his way to a few points, but gave away many more by netting or hitting wide of the lines.

Opening

The closest Zhao came was at 6-7. But then Yang, at 25 a year older than his opponent, swept to the opening game and opened a 5-0 lead in the second.

Zhao trimmed the deficit to 6-4. But Yang pinned him on the baseline, scored repeatedly by forcing errors and wrapped up

the match with a delightful drop shot that fell onto the sideline.

In the women's encounter Han, a habitual slow starter, lost the opening game as four-times champion Li shot into the lead at 4-3 and stayed in front.

Li opened a 4-1 lead in the second game before Han finally got her net game in order and began to win the close exchanges with her better control.

Li became more and more frustrated as Han raced through the final game.

China's world champions also clinched the men's, women's and

mixed doubles.

Malaysian brothers Jalani and Rafiq Sidek were expected to give Li Yongbo and Tian Bingyi stiff opposition. But Jalani developed a fever overnight and the Chinese won on a walkover.

In the women's doubles Lin Ying and Guan Weizhen beat South Korea's So Young Chung and Yu Ja Kim 15-3 15-7, while another South Korean pair failed against China in the mixed.

Wang Pengren and Shi Fangjin stopped Joo Bong Park and Chung Myung Hee 15-17 18-13 15-8 in a 70-minute thriller.

Iraqi squad leaves for Seoul

BAGHDAD, Sept. 4. (Reuters): Iraq's national soccer team left for Seoul today to begin training for the Olympics later this month, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

INA said the Iraqis would play the South Korean national side and a local club team as a warm-up for their first round matches against Zambia, Italy and Guatemala.

The Seoul Olympics are the third in a row for which the Iraqi soccer team have qualified.

Australia arrive for tour of Pakistan

LAHORE, Pakistan, Sept. 4. (Reuters): Australia arrived in Pakistan today for the first international cricket series here since England's acrimonious tour last winter.

But team coach Bobby Simpson told reporters he did not expect any controversy over the umpiring. If the Pakistani umpires were of the same standard and integrity as those used during last year's World Cup it would be fine, he said.

England's tour turned into a war between the visiting team and the Pakistani umpires. First Chris Broad refused to accept a caught-behind decision, then captain Mike Gatting had his now famous clash with umpire Shakoor Rana and a day was lost.

Merely

Simpson was asked whether the Australians would object to Rana being appointed to the umpiring panel. He said merely that he had not seen the umpire in action personally and would have to wait and see.

The panel is due to be announced before the first of the three Tests, which begins in Karachi on September 15.

Pakistan have won three of their last five Test series and drawn two, both against West Indies. But this time they are without the inspiration of Imran Khan, who opted out complaining of the hot and sultry weather in Pakistan in September.

The added absence of the injured Wasim Akram has badly dented Pakistan's pace attack, though they have in Abdul Qadir the best leg-spinner in the game.

Simpson was not too concerned. "We've been batting a lot against Qadir," he said. "He's a fine bowler and certainly we don't under-rate him. But remember that the last time in Australia he struggled against us."

"The wickets over here will probably spin a little bit, but we've been batting at nets for some time against some leg bowlers and leg spinners at home



Qadir: top spinner

to gain practice." Australia have their own answer to Qadir—leg-spinner Peter Sleep, a veteran of the last Australian touring side which lost both the Tests and the one-day internationals 3-0 in 1982-83.

Australia have the psychological boost of having beaten Pakistan on the way to their World Cup victory last year. They outplayed the favourites in the semifinal in Lahore's Khaddafi stadium, where they begin their nine-match tour tomorrow.

Qadir will captain a Patron's XI for the three-day game, transferred from Rawalpindi following the death on August 17 of President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

Well-matched

While Qadir may choose not to offer the tourists too much practice against his spin, Allan Border's men will probably get a crack at likely Test pacemen Mohsin Kamal and Hafiz Shahid.

Simpson said the two sides were well-matched. "Form on the day will decide it. There's no problem about the weather as we've been here at the same time for the last two years."

"We're mentally attuned to what we require, the heat won't worry us, it gets very hot in Australia and we knew that it was going to be hot here as well."

Postpone England's tour: Pataudi

NEW DELHI, Sept. 4. (Reuters): The Nawab of Pataudi, Indian cricket's elder statesman, says it may be best to postpone England's winter tour of India until the vexed issue of players who have South African links is resolved.

Pataudi, a former captain of India, gave his view as anti-apartheid leaders condemned the appointment of Graham Gooch, who led a rebel tour to South Africa in 1982, as skipper for the forthcoming England tour.

Pataudi told reporters today a

fresh ban on Gooch, who was barred from international cricket for three years following the 1982 tour, might split the cricket community worldwide.

"Some nations may combine together to re-introduce South Africa into the fold of international cricket," he said.

Problem

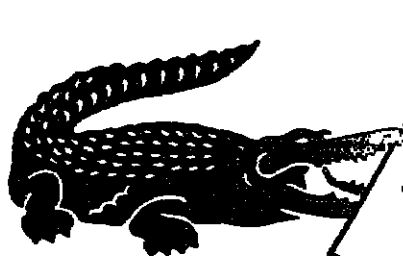
"It might be fitting for the tour to be postponed until this thorny problem is sorted out," he said.

Anand Sharma, a ruling Congress (I) party member of

parliament and chairman of World Youth Action Against Apartheid, said at a press conference that he and other MPs would protest to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi if England's Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) did not withdraw Gooch from the team.

"No compromise is possible on matters pertaining to apartheid in sport," he said, accusing the TCCB of appointing Gooch as a deliberate insult to India because of the country's firm stand against apartheid.

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